MONDAY
September 23, 2024

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***Indian women work the most hours globally***

*They put in over 55 hours a week*

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CAPTAIN'S MAN

**Ashwin spins India to a massive win**

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# Left leader Dissanayake is Sri Lanka's new President

'AKD', as he is popularly known, has pledged to end corruption and change the political culture of the country; poll results were declared by Election Commission after counting preferential votes

**Meera Srinivasan**
COLOMBO

Left leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Sunday emerged winner in Sri Lanka's presidential race, obtaining a mandate that signals a clean break from the island nation's political establishment and ushers in unprecedented change.

Mr. Dissanayake was officially declared President-elect by the Election Commission of Sri Lanka after it completed a second count of votes to add preference votes, an exercise undertaken for the first time in the country's election history.

The tally of preferential votes cast by voters became necessary since neither Mr. Dissanayake, nor his chief challenger, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa, secured the 50% plus one vote in the first round, which is required for winning.

**New tide:** Anura Kumara Dissanayake arrives at the Election Commission office in Colombo on Sunday. AFP

Mr. Dissanayake secured 42.31% of the votes. Mr. Premadasa was in the second spot with 32.76%, while incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe came third with under 20% of the vote share. The three candidates dominated the election, which was the first to be held after the economic crisis of 2022, the worst seen in the country since its Independence. Thirty-five other contestants were in the race, including Namal Rajapaksa, son of Mahinda Rajapaksa, and Tamil candidate P. Ariyanethiran.

An Opposition legislator from capital Colombo, Mr. Dissanayake ran for the National People's Power (NPP) alliance, a coalition helmed by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front), a party with Marxist-Leninist roots. "AKD", as he is popularly known, has pledged to end corruption and change the political culture of the country through an effective campaign targeting scores of Sri Lankans who sought change after the country's economic crash in 2022.

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# GST Council is looking at tax rates item by item for rationalisation: Sitharaman

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is looking at the tax rates, item by item, for rationalisation, and the process has been under discussion for a long time and delayed by several factors, including the impact of COVID-19.

In an interaction with senior journalists of The Hindu Group of publications at its head office in Chennai on Saturday, Ms. Sitharaman, while responding to a question on rationalisation of GST, said: "It has been delayed for a long time and it's much overdue due to various factors including the impact of COVID-19, and elections in some States. Now there is the seriousness, saying we need to take this up. The committee [Group of Ministers committee on rate rationalisation] is looking into it item by item."

> It [rate rationalisation] has been delayed for a long time and it's much overdue due to various factors including the impact of COVID-19, election in some States. Now there is the seriousness, saying we need to take this up. The committee is looking into it, item by item
>
> **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**
> Union Finance Minister

On a question related to GST compensation and compensation cess, she said, "Everyone knows that the GST compensation cannot continue after June 30, 2022, and that is by law. So paying off the compensation in the first five years after implementation of the GST continued and ended in June 2022. The cess continues to be collected. Whether it has to continue or not and the rate and items on which the cess should be levied is being discussed in the GST Council."

The Minister also mentioned that some States want GST compensation to continue.

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# Indian teams make history at Chess Olympiad

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**

India recorded one of the greatest moments in its sporting history in Budapest on Sunday, winning the gold medals both in the Open and women's sections of the 45th Chess Olympiad.

The Indian men had been so dominant in the competition that they were almost assured of the gold with a round to spare.

In the 11th and final round match, India scored an easy victory against Slovenia. D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi won their games, while Vidit Gujrathi drew. India won 3.5-0.5 against Slovenia, taking its tally to 21 points, out of the possible 22.

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**Shri Siddaramaiah**
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Karnataka

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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

**Department of Health and Family Welfare**
**Transport Department**
**Karnataka State Road Safety Authority**

**Shri. D. K. Shivakumar**
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister
of Karnataka

Induction of **65 New Ambulances** under the
**"Chief Minister's Emergency Ambulance Service (CEAS)"**
by Hon'ble Chief Minister **Shri Siddaramaiah**

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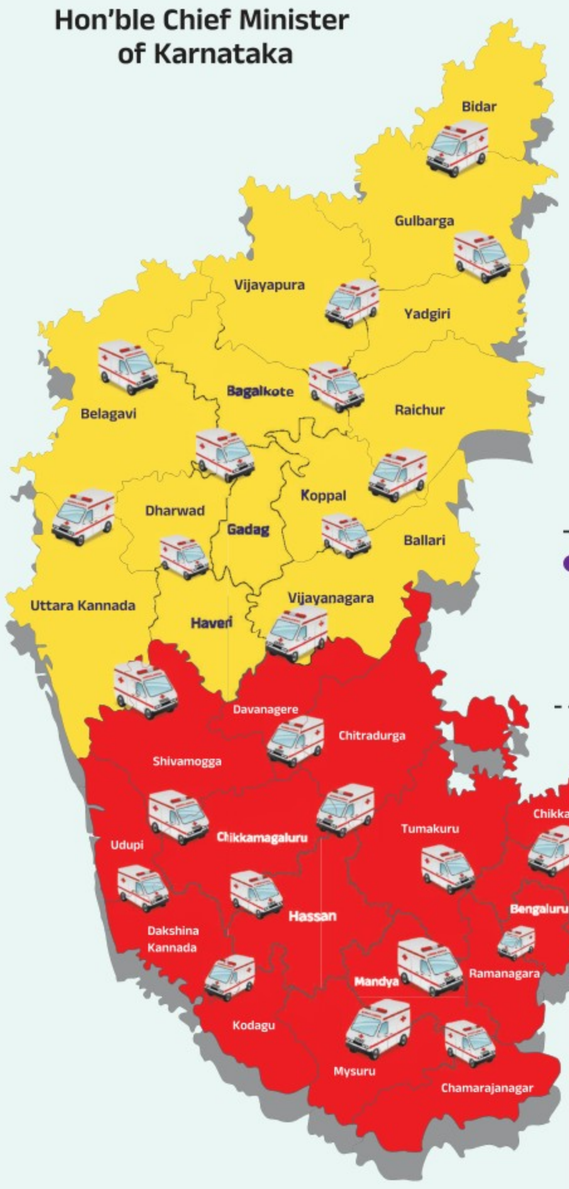


**Salient Features of Chief Minister's Emergency Ambulance Service (CEAS):**

- **Induction of 65 New Ambulances** to transport accident victims during the critical "Golden Hour"
- Karnataka Road Safety Authority Fund of **₹45 crore** for the year 2024-25 is allocated to support accident control and road safety measures
- **Multisectoral Convergence** for Safety Measures is a part of the strategy to coordinate between various departments like Home, Transport, Public Works, Education and Health and Family Welfare.
- Ambulances placed at **district and taluk hospitals** near highways
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# Tactical astuteness and terrific wit make Rohit one of a kind

Tough love and grudge-free conversations are his USPs while the desire to walk the talk and back the youngsters make him a players' captain and the T20 World Cup win is a shining testimony of this virtue

R. RAGU

**R. Kaushik**

The World Cup was slipping away from India, a second heartbreak in seven months seemed imminent. Axar Patel had started the 15th over of South Africa's run-chase in the T20 World Cup final in Bridgetown with the Proteas needing 54 for victory off 36 deliveries. A savage onslaught from Heinrich Klaasen fetched 24 runs off the left-arm spinner's final over of the competition. South Africa's equation was down to 30 off 30, with six wickets in hand.

Axar had had a superb World Cup in all three departments. Why, even in the final, it was his 31-ball 47, when promoted to No. 5, which ensured that India scored at a healthy clip despite Virat Kohli going 35 deliveries without a boundary at one stage.

Even with the ball, his first three overs had yielded a more than acceptable 25, well below the required run rate at the start of the South African innings. Yet, if the Gujarat all-rounder felt as if he'd rather the earth opened and swallowed him whole, there was good reason to do so.

A downcast Axar received his cap from the umpire, looking dazed, when his captain strode up to him and whispered words of encouragement. Rohit Sharma told Axar he had no reason to feel disappointed because even good deliveries had been sent beyond the fence by Klaasen. He wasn't saying it for effect or to soften the blow; Rohit is that kind of captain - empathetic, understanding, a solid figure of support in times of crises, but also unafraid to crack the whip if he perceives even the slightest slackening of effort.

### Unique style

To take time off at a critical stage of the contest, with the game almost slipping away, when he had other things on his mind spoke to Rohit's unique leadership style.

Five IPL titles as captain haven't transpired by chance or accident; Rohit is a fabulous man-manager, one of the most significant traits a captain must possess, apart from being an astute tactician and a great reader of the game.

Rohit's mind was ticking after the Axar over that could have been the difference between ecstasy and agony. To find the wherewithal at that point to seek out the bowler and lift his spirits was a master-stroke, a typical Rohit gesture which is one of the reasons he is so adored by his teammates.

Aware that no purpose would be served by dwelling on the six Axar deliveries that had seemingly altered the course of the final, Rohit chose to look forwards. He must have feared a reprisal of the 50-over World Cup final in Ahmedabad when India's perfect campaign came to a juddering halt against the Australian juggernaut, but he could ill afford to make his apprehensions apparent. Especially when in a spot, the team looks to the leader for inspiration and comfort.

By maintaining a confident exterior, no matter the cesspool of emotions that threatened to overwhelm him, Rohit was sending out a clear, voluble message - 'We are still in it, lads'.

He then marshalled his troops with the felicity and situational awareness of a celebrated general, tweaking the field here, making a change there. He brought Jasprit Bumrah on for the 16th over, maybe an over earlier than he would have liked, maybe not, for control. His undisputed spearhead responded by conceding only four.

Then, after Hardik Pandya lucked it out by forcing Klaasen to feather a slower, wide ball outside off to Rishabh Pant, Rohit persisted with Bumrah for over No. 18 when normally he keeps him back for No. 19.

Bumrah plucked out Marco Jansen's leg pole, conceding only two runs in that over. The balance of power had shifted inexorably during those two Bumrah overs, and India tightened the screws to complete a remarkable seven-win victory when defeat had appeared on the cards 30 minutes previously.

### Outburst of emotion

After the last ball of the final had been delivered by Hardik, Rohit flung himself to the ground, prone, at cover and slapped the turf vehemently and repeatedly with his right palm. It was an outburst of naked emotion from someone who wears his emotion openly, but seldom loses control. In that one iconic gesture lay relief and delight, redemption and vindication.

The T20 World Cup triumph wouldn't quite make up for defeat in the final of the longer white-ball World Cup, but considering the circumstances under which it came, Rohit would take it. Gladly. With feeling.

Perhaps, in some quarters, India winning a World Cup under Rohit was taken for granted merely because he had piloted Mumbai Indians to five IPL titles. If only life were that simple. Perhaps Rohit felt the weight of expectations, perhaps he was so gutted by defeat to Australia that he chose to extend his T20I career merely in pursuit of the pot of gold. By steering the team to the T20 crown against all odds, Rohit has stormed into rarefied territory, joining Kapil Dev and Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the only Indian World Cup-winning captains.

'It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy' has been the overriding theme over the last three or so months. Nice guys, it seems, can and do finish first.

Such has been the luminescence of his batting that Rohit's leadership skills have often flown under the radar. Maybe in a way, he is an accidental Test captain because two and a half years before he embraced that role, he wasn't even certain of his place in the Test XI, despite by then having spent six wildly fluctuating years as a Test cricketer.

His elevation to the top of the batting order in the five-day game has come with unexpectedly spectacular consequences because, like in the white-ball formats, it's as an opener that he has found his calling, entirely because of which the captaincy became his once Kohli decided to abdicate the throne.

Rohit has overseen the first little period of transition in Indian Test cricket in a little while. It's under him and head coach Rahul Dravid that Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill positively flourished.

He oversaw the debuts of a slew of untested but talented youngsters during the Test series against England, when his tactical skills and inner steel were severely tested with injuries crippling India's batting, and he ensured those youngsters were presented with the right atmosphere in which to blossom and perform.

His overwhelming desire to walk the talk and take it upon himself to be the first executor of the policy of unfettered batting aggression might have led to a decline in the tall edifices he used to erect with unerring regularity in both T20Is and ODIs, but the impact of his boisterous ball-bashing in the PowerPlay overs has had a cascading effect on his colleagues.

### An inspiration

It's impossible not to be inspired by the selflessness of the leader when the said leader has a monumental three ODI double-tons and a record-equalling five T20I hundreds, but is now more fixated on a 25-ball 50 than a 60-ball century.

Rohit belongs to the school that believes that you shouldn't demand of others what you don't do yourself. By leading from the front in espousing the theory of boldness and attack, he is now commanding the loyalty and admiration of his troops.

Without saying it in as many words, Rohit's resounding message is 'Do as I say, and as I do', because what he is saying and what he is doing are perfectly in sync with each other.

Having realised a long-cherished ambition of helping India break their ICC trophy drought, Rohit has now walked away from the T20I game with little left to achieve. There is unfinished business yet in the other two versions; 2025 will witness the Champions Trophy, which India last won in 2013, as well as the third final of the World Test Championship.

India have lost both preceding finals, to New Zealand (2021) and Australia (2023) respectively, a tribute to their consistency that they made both title rounds but a blow to their ego and dream that they couldn't navigate the final step successfully.

Within a few months next year, Rohit will have a grand chance to take India to the unprecedented heights they touched only under Dhoni, an exciting possibility that one is sure Rohit will approach with tempered optimism rather than with the fear of not making it happen.

### One of the boys

Even though he is the undisputed leader - even a cursory glance will confirm that the eyes of all his nine outfielders are firmly trained on him between deliveries because he doesn't suffer slackers gladly - Rohit has managed to remain one of the boys, sending his teammates into raptures with his pithy, often unprintable one-liners that carry not an iota of vindictiveness or malice.

In a tense situation, he is the first with a joke, trying to lighten the mood not because he has to but because it comes naturally to him.

He looks after the younger guys under him with the zest of a tigress protecting her cubs, though when it comes to reading the riot act, he has few equals.

Rohit is a believer in tough love but is grudge-free and honest in his conversations and decision-making, qualities that separate the great leaders from the good ones.

Indian cricket is fortunate that Rohit is the latest in a long line of terrific captains and leaders, but one of a kind when it comes to a lot of things - including tactical astuteness and terrific wit.

## THE GIST

- Rohit has overseen the first little period of transition in Indian Test cricket in a little while
- Such has been the luminescence of his batting that his leadership skills have often flown under the radar
- Rohit belongs to the school that believes that you shouldn't demand of others what you don't do yourself
- Within a few months next year, Rohit will have a grand chance to take India to the unprecedented heights they touched only under Dhoni, an exciting possibility that one is sure the former will approach with tempered optimism rather than with the fear of not making it happen

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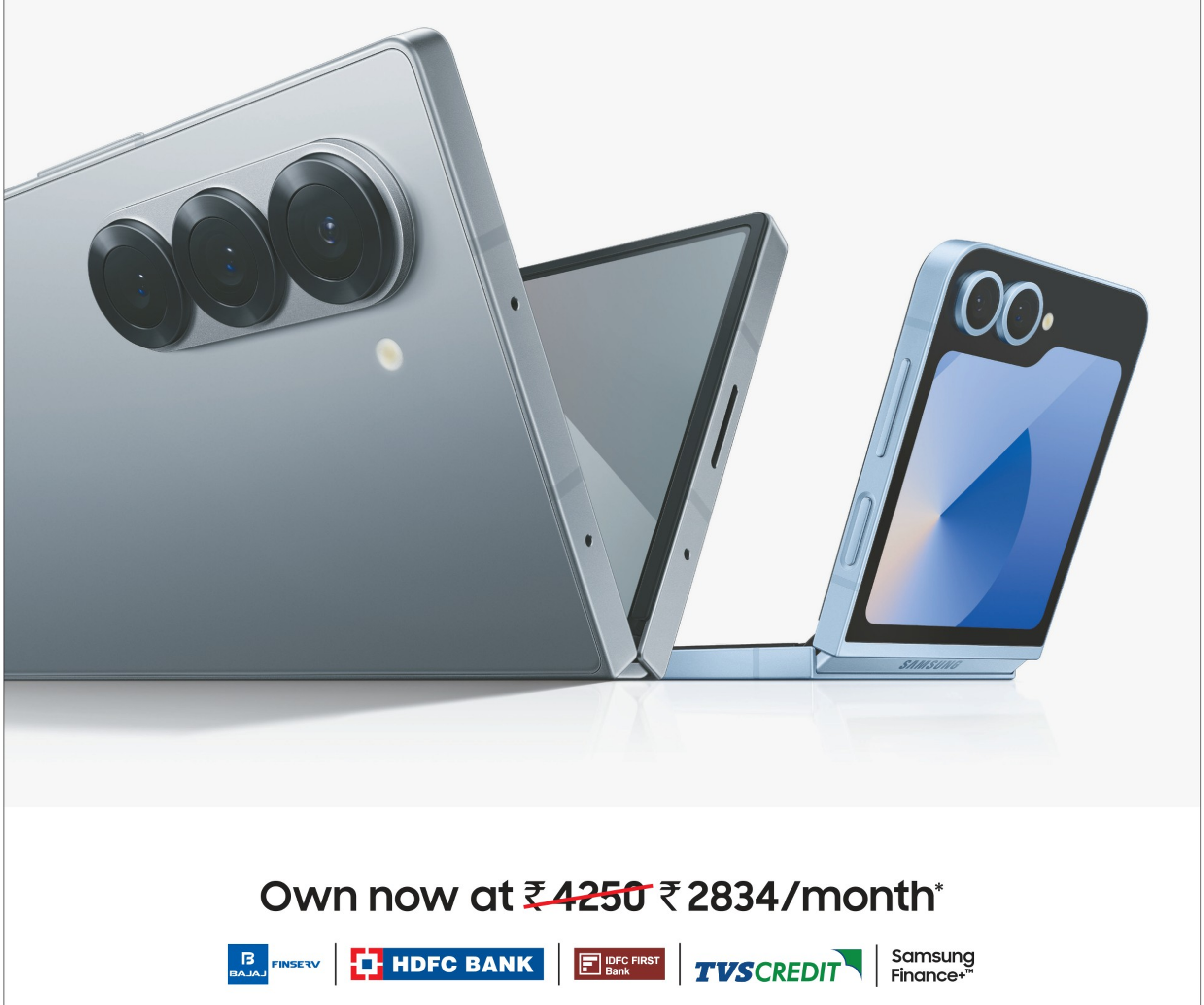


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# Four special teams to probe home-alone woman's murder case

Employee of a men's parlour at Vyalikaval, who was allegedly close to the victim, among suspects

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Hours after the murder of 29-year-old Mahalakshmi came to light at Vyalikaval, four special teams were formed to probe the case, while a few suspects, including an employee of a men's parlour nearby who was allegedly close to the deceased, have been questioned.

The police and local people near the crime scene on Sunday where a 29-year-old woman was murdered at Vyalikaval in Bengaluru. PTI

According to the police, the accused would visit Mahalakshmi often and is also said to have visited the day before she was murdered.

Mahalakshmi's estranged husband also allegedly expressed suspicion about the man's role in the murder to the police.

The police are also probing the role of two others, including a man who used to drop and pick up Mahalakshmi to and from her workplace often. There was another man who was close to Mahalakshmi at the workplace and he is also being questioned, the police said.

After separating from her husband and child, Mahalakshmi stayed with her brother Hukum Singh and his wife for a few days. But they moved to Gunjur after a fight with Mahalakshmi and since then, she had been living alone.

The victim was working in a mall and was living in the rented house for the last five months. The murder came to light on Saturday when a neighbour noticed foul smell emanating from the house and called Hukum Singh.

Hukum Singh in turn called his mother, Meena Rana, and sister, Lakshmi, to go and check on Mahalakshmi. The mother and daughter came home and with the help of the neighbour obtained a spare key to open the house. They found the house ransacked and blood dripping from the fridge with a strong stench. They opened the fridge to find it stuffed with Mahalakshmi's chopped body parts and raised an alarm for help.

The police suspect the murder could have taken place a fortnight ago as the body parts were highly decomposed and worms were found in them. The case has sent shock waves across the city and the country.

# BMTC launches driving training programme for general public

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**
BENGALURU

In a move to make use of its advanced training infrastructure and provide driving training to the general public, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has launched a driving training programme for light motor vehicles (LMV) and heavy passenger vehicles (HPV). The initiative aims to generate additional revenue for the BMTC while equipping the public with driving skills, opening opportunities in the transport sector.

The programme offers both residential and non-residential options, catering to a wide range of learners. A senior BMTC official said, "The main purpose of launching this programme is to utilise our well-established driving training centre, which has been primarily used to train BMTC drivers. Now, we are extending this service to the general public, so that many people can benefit from it."

The training programme will be conducted at the BMTC's Driver Training Centre located at Vaddarahalli on Magadi Main Road in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

### Training details and fees

| Vehicle type | Residential course fees | Non-residential course fees | Duration |
|---|---|---|---|
| Light motor vehicle | ₹13,000 | ₹7,000 | 26 days |
| Heavy passenger vehicle | ₹16,700 | ₹11,000 | 26 days |

*Source: BMTC*

**Enrolment starts**

The training programme is open for enrolment, and those interested in learning to drive LMVs or HPVs may register by paying the fee. According to the BMTC, applicants for the LMV driving course must be at least 18 years old, while the HPV course requires a minimum age of 20. As part of the application process, candidates must provide proof of their date of birth, such as a date of birth certificate, SSLC marks card, transfer certificate, or a notary-certified document. Additionally, a valid Aadhaar card and five passport-sized photographs must be submitted.

"The scheme aims to provide quality driving education, enabling participants to secure valid driving licences upon completion of the course. The programme is now open for registration, and we encourage interested individuals to enrol," the official added.

**Course options**

The residential LMV course is offered at ₹13,000, while the HPV residential course costs ₹16,700. For non-residential training, the LMV course fee is ₹7,000, and the HPV course is available for ₹11,000. Both programmes last for 26 days, during which participants will receive comprehensive driving lessons and be prepared to obtain their driving licences.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy highlighted its potential to benefit a wide range of individuals looking to enhance their driving skills or pursue a career in the transport industry. "This initiative by the BMTC is expected to benefit drivers who want to enhance their employability and driving skills, especially those seeking a career in the transport sector. By offering this course, the BMTC is making use of its facilities and infrastructure to provide valuable skills to the general public. This training programme will benefit hundreds of people across Karnataka."

According to the BMTC, the training will be conducted at the BMTC's Driver Training Centre located in Vaddarahalli on Magadi Main Road in Bengaluru. Interested candidates may contact the BMTC for more details. They can register by calling Ph. no. 7760991085 or 6364858520 during office hours.

# Medical college's decision to charge ₹22L for private quota seats comes as a shock

**Jayanth R.**
BENGALURU

Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (SMSIMSR), Muddenahalli, Chickballapur district, which did not charge any fee for government and private quota medical seats last year, is extending the offer only for government quota seats (40%) this year. For the private quota seats (40%), an annual fees of ₹22 lakh is being been charged.

Unable to pay the fees for private quota seats, 15 students have surrendered their seats to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA). While only eight students were admitted to the institution in the first round of seat allotment, nine have decided to participate in the second round of allotment.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has allotted 50 medical seats for the SMSIMSR, which started in 2023-24 – 40% government quota (20 seats), 40% private quota (20 seats), 15% Non-Residential Indian quota (seven seats), and 5% management quota (three seats).

**SMSIMSR did not charge any fee for govt. and private quota medical seats last year**

Last time, the SMSIMSR charged zero fees for those who got seats under government and private quotas with certain conditions. For the management and NRI quota seats, a fee of ₹40 lakh was charged.

However, this year the SMSIMSR has decided to charge no fee only for government quota seats and a proposal was submitted to the State government by fixing an annual fee of ₹25 lakh for private quota seats. The government, however, fixed a fee of ₹22 lakh for private quota seats. Management and NRI quota seats will cost ₹40 lakh.

Medical colleges should enter the fee structure in the KEA portal before students enter their options. However, the SMSIMSR was not allowed to enter the fee structure in the portal as it did not get permission from the government to fix the fee for private quota seats. In this regard, the college management wrote to the KEA on August 19, 2024, requesting permission to enter the fee structure.

Meanwhile, the KEA allowed option entry for the first round of seat allotment from August 20. At this time, for the students who chose the SMSIMSR, only ₹750 fee was mentioned on the portal for private and government quota seats. Hundreds of students opted for it.

The SMSIMSR submitted a proposal to the government on August 21 seeking permission to offer courses under the special free reservation for 2024-25 and charging ₹25 lakh for private quota seats. The government issued an order on August 26 fixing the fee for government quota seats as zero, ₹22 lakh for private quota seats, and ₹40 lakh for management quota and NRI quota seats per annum. When the KEA announced the results of the first round of seat allotment on August 30, students who had secured seats under the private quota in the SMSIMSR were in for a shock.

"I studied in Kannada medium in a government PU college, scored 97% in II PU and got a good score in NEET as well. Being economically and socially backward, we chose the SMSIMSR to get free medical education but I got a seat under the private quota. A fee of ₹750 was shown during the option entry. However, when the seat was allotted, it showed that we had to pay ₹22 lakh. I opted for the second round of seat allotment and the seat has been allotted in the same college in the provisional list of this round as well," lamented Tanvi from Kundapur.

Prasanna H., Executive Director of the KEA, said, "Some students have complained about the confusion regarding the fees for private quota seats in the SMSIMSR."

## Couple killed in accident

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A farmer and his wife were killed in a road accident when a tractor knocked down their motorcycle at Devanagundi Cross on the outskirts of the city on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Rangappa, 55, and his wife Sudha, 43, both residents of Lakkondahalli who were on their way to Hoskote.

According to the police, the accident occurred at 1 p.m. when the tractor going ahead suddenly took a right turn at Devanagundi Cross. An unsuspecting Rangappa crashed into the tractor and the couple was run over as the driver, in panic, accelerated, killing them on the spot.

The tractor driver, Bharat Kumar, 34, initially fled the scene but was apprehended later in the day.

## SUV catches fire on Hosur Road

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Panic gripped motorists as an SUV moving on the service road of Bengaluru-Hosur highway caught fire on Saturday.

A biker noticed sparks coming from the SUV and alerted the driver. The driver stopped to inspect the vehicle. However, as soon as he opened the bonnet, the fire engulfed the entire vehicle. The driver managed to escape unharmed, the police said.

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2024-25/54
Dated: 12.09.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

| Item of work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| (Re-tender): Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) for SCADA at RCC, TSS, SP & SSP of. Chikjajur (Excl) - Rayadurga (Excl) section of Mysuru Division for Four (4) years. | Rs. 48,61,681.28/- |

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 03.10.2024
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer / Traction Mysuru
PUB/431/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2024-25/53
Dated: 12.09.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

| Item of work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| Asst. Divisional Engineer / Sakleshpur Sub-Division (SKLR): Provision of Additional Height Gauges on approaches with Superstructure of Steel Girder at RUB No. 20, 366, 473, 484, 500, 539 and 577. | Rs. 7,04,803.48/- |

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 03.10.2024
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer / General Mysuru
PUB/430/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
The General Public is informed that My client **Smt Mannuru Uma Jagadeswari w/o Sudhakar Chennamsetty i**ntends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein from **M/s. SRI. BALAJI VENTURES** (hereinafter builder/seller) The builder/seller represents and warrant that it is the absolute owner of the schedule property and it has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the builder/seller further represents and warrants that it has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from it no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property.
Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven(07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my clients shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.
**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**
All that piece and parcel of the Residential **3 BHK Flat No: 443, 4th Floor, Wing 1,** in **"SRI BALAJI ROSE WOODS,** measuring SBA of **1390 sqft** with **475 sqft UDS,** constructed on Sy.No.46/1 and 44/3 measuring 4 Acre 32.8 guntas Katha No.418/Sy.No.46/1,44/3, converted for residential use, with 1 covered Car Parking space, Situated at **Kodigehalli Village, KR Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Tq,** under BBMP limits, Ward No.54, Bengaluru.
**Prashanth B.K,** Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 23-09-2024

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**BENGALURU**

**MONDAY, SEP. 23**
RISE 06:09 SET 18:15
RISE 22:45 SET 11:12

**TUESDAY, SEP. 24**
RISE 06:09 SET 18:14
RISE 23:44 SET 12:13

**WEDNESDAY, SEP. 25**
RISE 06:09 SET 18:13
RISE 00:00 SET 13:11

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 32 | 24 |
| Mysuru | 31 | 21 |
| Bengaluru | 31 | 21 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**30°C** Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower is likely.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**29°C** The weather will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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# We have become a generation of short-term gratification: CJI

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

"Studies have shown that we have become a generation of short-term gratification. The world, climate change, new modes of entertainment like social media and an eagerness to change social evils are making us seek short-term results for complex problems. Unlike my generation, you all have leveraged technology to be inquisitive, ask questions, and have them answered at the click of your finger. The urge to act with immediacy is natural. But it is equally unsustainable in the long run and sets unrealistic standards for you and for others to match up to," said Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Sunday.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Attorney-General R. Venkataramani at the 32nd convocation of the National Law School of India University in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

Delivering the presidential address at the 32nd annual convocation of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) here, he said, "A decision made in haste requires our attention and drains our mental health in the long run. It is also unlikely to create long-term positive changes for your goals. Keeping this in mind is especially important for lawyers. Your profession will demand your attention. In meeting these demands you must remember that you are here for the long haul. No matter how much the forced sense of urgency, you must approach life with patience." He said, "I know that some of you will pursue traditional legal careers, and there's great valour in upholding the pillars of our justice system. Others might leverage the legal background to become entrepreneurs, policymakers, or advocates for social change. And some might take completely unexpected routes. After all, the ability to think on your feet is transferable. You may become authors, tech innovators, or even stand-up comedians. God knows that law professionals can use a sense of humour from time to time. Your law degree has given you knowledge, but your choices will define your legacy."

Delivering the convocation address, R. Venkataramani, Attorney-General, said, "While globally and domestically we have pledged to march towards a society of equals, materially, economically and socially our struggles or conflicts of ideologies in fashioning political and governance tools are still raging debates."

Mr. Justice Chandrachud conferred degrees to the graduates. Aditi Vishwas Sheth got eight gold medals in BA LLB (Honors) programme and emerged at the top.

This year, as many as 1,079 students graduated from various academic programmes of the NLSIU.

THE HINDU
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**PERSONAL**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, SNEHALATTA** Rajubhai Patel Alias Snehalata Patel, W/o: Hemant Vijaybhai Patel, R/o: No.15/1, Tarapore Officers Colony, Shivan Chetty Garden Blr–42 , I Have Changed My Name to Snehalatta Hemant Patel.

**I, SEEMA,** D/o Raghavendra Bhat Kajake, R/at No.110, 11th Cross, 6th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003, have changed my name from Seema to Seema Bhat Rao vide affidavit dated 21/09/2024 sworn before Notary K.S. Giridhar, Bengaluru.

**I, HARITA** Daughter of Devender Kumar resident of Flat #209, SLV GVR Paradise, 4th Main, Vinayakanagar, Near Baglur Cross, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063, have changed my name from Harita to Harita Mittal vide affidavit dated 17/09/2024 sworn before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

**I, ASHA** W/O Hanuman Gopal , R/O: 69/2, Maruthi Nilaya, Raghavendra Temple Road, Sharadamba Nagar, Jalahalli, Blr–13 Have Changed My Name As Asha Hanuman Vide Afdvt Dt:20/09/24

**I, SIVANNARAYANA** S father of Sitalapu Pavankumar resident of SMQ 37/5, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560063 have changed by name from Sivannarayana S to Sitalapu Siva Narayana vide affidavit dated 27/07/2024 sworn before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

**PERSONAL**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, CHAITRA** Prashanth, R/o No.36, 3rd Cross, Sampangirama Nagar,Bengaluru-560027, have changed my name from Chaitra Prashanth to Chaitra Eshwar vide affidavit dated 11/09/2024 sworn before Notary Mamatha.N.K, Bengaluru.

**I, MALLAVVA** Talawar D/O Nagendrappa, R/O: Gf001, Silver Springs Aprts,2nd mn, Raghavendra lyt, Hosahalli, Bengaluru– 109 Have Changed My Name As Mallawwa Ramachandrappa Talawar Vide Afdvt Dtd 17/09/24

**I, ANCHAL** Mittal daughter of Devender Kumar resident of #209, SLV GVR Paradise, 4th Main, Vinayakanagar, Near Baglur Cross, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063 have changed my name from Anchal Mittal to Aanchal Mittal vide affidavit dated 17/09/2024 sworn before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

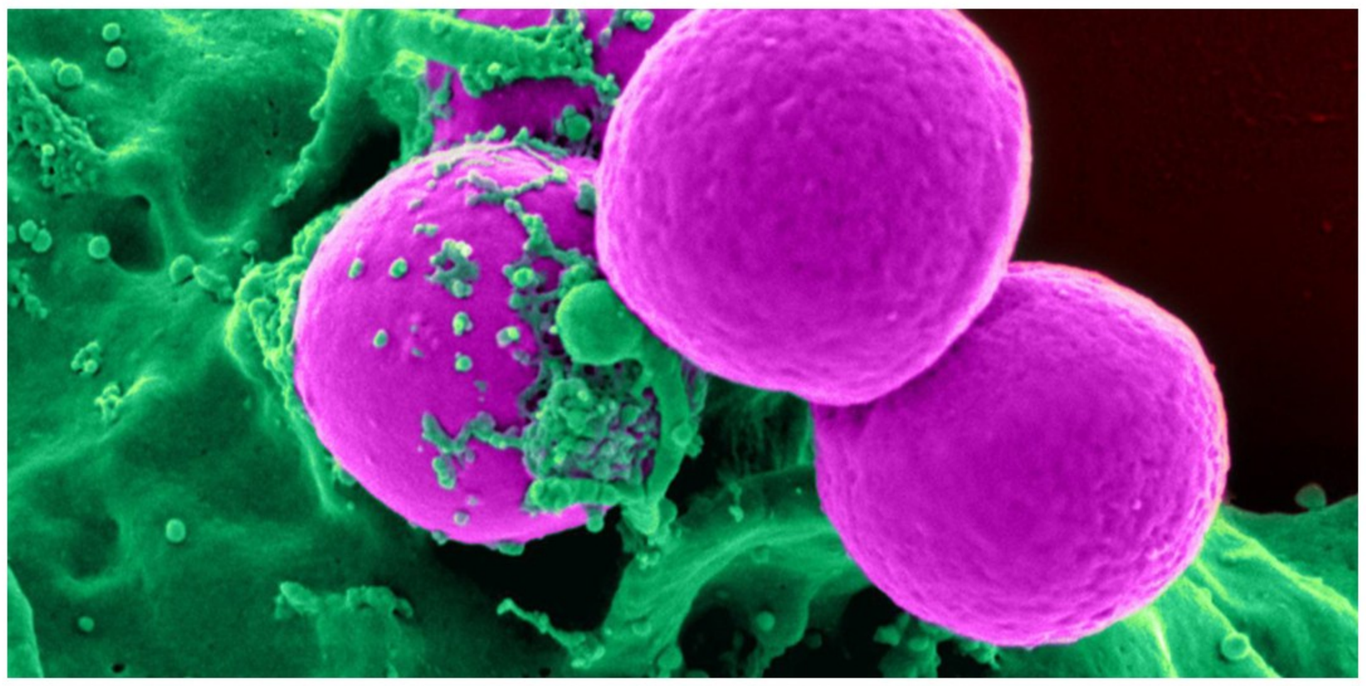
**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **MR 0-1435P Lt Gen (Rtrd) Dasarath Raghunath** S/o. late B.S.Dasarathy and Saroja, aged about 87 years, Residing at No.247, 2nd Main Road, 7 th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560 070, have changed my name from **Dasarath Raghunath** (Existing Name as per CoS) to **Dasarathy Raghunath**, vide Affidavit dated 20/09/2024, before Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, FTSC-III, Bangalore City.

# Vancomycin may not be able to treat MRSA infections for long

"Vancomycin has been reliable for treating MRSA for decades as it is very rare that *S. aureus* becomes resistant to vancomycin," Eric Wright, a researcher at the University of Pittsburgh and co-author of a new study, said. "Our study shows that we may not be able to treat MRSA with vancomycin forever"

Sneha Khedkar



A false-colour scanning electron micrograph of a human neutrophil (green) ingesting MRSA (pink). NIAID

## THE GIST

Researchers thought VRSA mutated in the presence of vancomycin. They sequenced genomes of vancomycin-exposed and unexposed lineages. Mutations occurred in a gene enriched in bacteria exposed to vancomycin but didn't occur in bacteria grown without vancomycin

VRSA is caused by the transfer of the *vanA* operon genes, from another vancomycin-resistant bacterium to *S. aureus*. VRSA strains were isolated, and four of them carrying the *vanA* operon were grown in the presence or absence of vancomycin

It is critical to develop new antibiotics to combat any future vancomycin-resistant *S. aureus*. One limitation of the study is they didn't test how the VRSA lineages that evolved in the lab would survive in a living host

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the great crises of the 21st century, and *Staphylococcus aureus* is an important bacteria species leading this charge.

In 2019, for example, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) – a strain that can resist several antibiotics – was responsible for more than 100,000 deaths. Fortunately it is still significantly vulnerable to vancomycin, which has been doctors' first-line treatment against MRSA infections for 40 years.

### Nothing is forever

MRSA rarely resists vancomycin. Only 16 such cases have been reported in India so far. This is because when *S. aureus* acquires vancomycin resistance (to become VRSA), it also grows slower and is less fit.

Now, researchers have found *S. aureus* can adapt to vancomycin while overcoming this fitness cost. The study, published in the journal *PLoS Pathogens* on August 29, reported results threatening the long-term use of vancomycin in the clinic.

"Vancomycin has been reliable for treating MRSA for decades as it is very rare that *S. aureus* becomes resistant to vancomycin," Eric Wright, a researcher at the University of Pittsburgh and study co-author, wrote in an email. "Our study shows that we may not be able to treat MRSA with vancomycin forever."

### A commanding presence

All documented cases of VRSA are due to the transfer of a cluster of genes, called the *vanA* operon, from another vancomycin-resistant bacterium to *S. aureus* during a simultaneous infection. The researchers isolated VRSA strains from clinical samples and grew four of them carrying the *vanA* operon in the presence or absence of vancomycin.

First, they grew VRSA in the presence of vancomycin in both solid and liquid culture conditions to study different fitness parameters. Most strains of VRSA cultured under both conditions grew more slowly than *S. aureus* that was still susceptible to vancomycin, confirming that acquiring antibiotic resistance came with a fitness cost. Next, to check whether the strains retain vancomycin resistance in the absence of the antibiotic, the team moved the bacteria to a vancomycin-free solid medium. This resulted in a quick reversion of antibiotic resistance: the strains became susceptible to vancomycin.

The researchers let the VRSA grow and evolve in the lab for 50 life cycles and compared the growth rates of the evolved and the ancestral strains. They found most evolved lineages grew faster than the ancestral strain, indicating VRSA could overcome the initial fitness cost of vancomycin resistance when exposed to the antibiotic for a longer period.

In parallel, the researchers also grew separate lineages of VRSA in mediums lacking vancomycin for 50 cycles. VRSA grown this way didn't grow faster than the ancestral strain, meaning the fitness changes in cells exposed to vancomycin were largely due to the presence of the antibiotic.

### Help from mutations

The researchers hypothesised VRSA developed additional mutations in the presence of vancomycin that helped overcome the cost of resistance. To test this, they sequenced the genomes of vancomycin-exposed and vancomycin-unexposed lineages. The results revealed mutations in a particular gene enriched in bacteria exposed to vancomycin but didn't occur in bacteria grown without vancomycin.

To determine if these mutations were directly responsible for surmounting the fitness costs, the researchers compared the fitness of vancomycin-exposed strains with and without the mutations. VRSA with the mutations grew faster in the presence of vancomycin while the strains sans the mutations were less fit.

Next, the researchers explored whether vancomycin-exposed VRSA lineages reverted to becoming susceptible to the antibiotic. They exposed VRSA to vancomycin for 50 cycles, followed by exposure to vancomycin-free media for 10 cycles. Unlike the original strains that lost vancomycin resistance, most of the vancomycin-exposed strains remained resistant even in the absence of vancomycin.

> In 2019 methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) caused more than 100,000 deaths. Fortunately it is still vulnerable to vancomycin, which has been first-line treatment for 40 years

Finally, the researchers checked whether overcoming the fitness cost of vancomycin resistance came with lower resistance to other antibiotics. They tested the susceptibility of ancestral and evolved VRSA strains to linezolid and oxacillin. Most of the evolved lineages had much lower or no oxacillin resistance, although there were signs they could re-acquire it through other means.

### Strength in number of approaches

The results show "it is important that we develop new antibiotics and treatment strategies to combat any future vancomycin-resistant *S. aureus*, as well as other antibiotic-resistant pathogens," Wright wrote.According to him, one limitation of their study is they didn't test how the VRSA lineages that evolved in the lab would survive in a living host."The study adds to a body of work looking at vancomycin resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus*," Laasya Samhita, an assistant professor at Ashoka University, Haryana, who studies the mechanisms of antibiotic resistance, said.

According to her, the findings underline what others have shown: about vancomycin resistance being costly and thus easily lost in the absence of the pressure to adapt imposed by the antibiotic. "Their key finding is that continued exposure of resistant strains leads to rapid cost compensation," she said. "These evolved strains are now both recalcitrant to treatment and will spread readily in the population."She added that it is "nice" to see experimental evolution in both solid and liquid mediums, which she said "can make a difference to the rate of evolution and the kind of resistance that shows up."

### Other forms of resistance

But the study explores how VRSA overcomes the fitness cost imposed by only one type of resistance, she added. While the *vanA* operon is responsible for all known VRSA cases, other mechanisms of vancomycin resistance exist in other bacteria.The authors also don't elaborate on measures to prevent the bacterium from overcoming the resistance costs, Samhita added. But according to her, the study underscores the importance of stopping vancomycin the moment VRSA is observed in patient samples.

*(Sneha Khedkar is a biologist turned freelance science journalist. snehakhedkar30@gmail.com)*

## BIG SHOT

A combination of satellite images shows Mount Penteli before the summer wildfires (left), in August 2020, and after, on August 14, 2024, in Greece. The devastation has ignited a debate about what the government response should be: to continue with a programme to replant trees that could provide fuel for future fires or, as some scientists have urged, to look for new ways to adapt. REUTERS

## WHAT IS IT?

# Butterfly effect: roll the dice

Vasudevan Mukunth

Mathematicians Henri Poincare and Norbert Wiener noticed that the earth's atmosphere was never entirely stable and that the weather could be affected by very small changes, sometimes far away. AARN GIRI

You're likely to have heard about the butterfly effect and just as likely to have heard the example of a butterfly flapping its wings in one place and causing a tornado thousands of kilometres away. The discovery of the effect has its origins in the work of the American mathematician Edward Lorenz, who pioneered the use of computers and mathematical models to predict the weather.

Before him, the mathematicians Henri Poincare and Norbert Wiener noticed that the earth's atmosphere was never entirely stable and that the weather could be affected by very small changes, sometimes far away. Lorenz used computers to create mathematical models of this deterministic chaos and with them tried to predict the weather.

The butterfly effect is a statement about the property of this chaotic system: its final outcome is highly sensitive to its starting conditions. If one of these conditions changes just a little, the final outcome could be very different — like a hot, dry day rather than a bleak, damp one. Lorenz wrote that in one forecast model he was running in 1961, changing the value of some input variable from 0.506127 to 0.506 resulted in a drastically different prediction for the weather two months later.

Scientists have observed the butterfly effect in a variety of fields. A new branch of study called quantum chaos is in fact concerned with understanding "classical" chaos using quantum theory.

**For feedback and suggestions**
for 'Science', please write to
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with the subject 'Daily page'

# Boy killed as playground gate crashes on him

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

An 11-year-old boy died after sustaining severe head injuries when the iron gate of a playground at Malleswaram crashed on him on Sunday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Niranjan, a resident of Vivekananda Block slum, Dattatreya Temple Street.

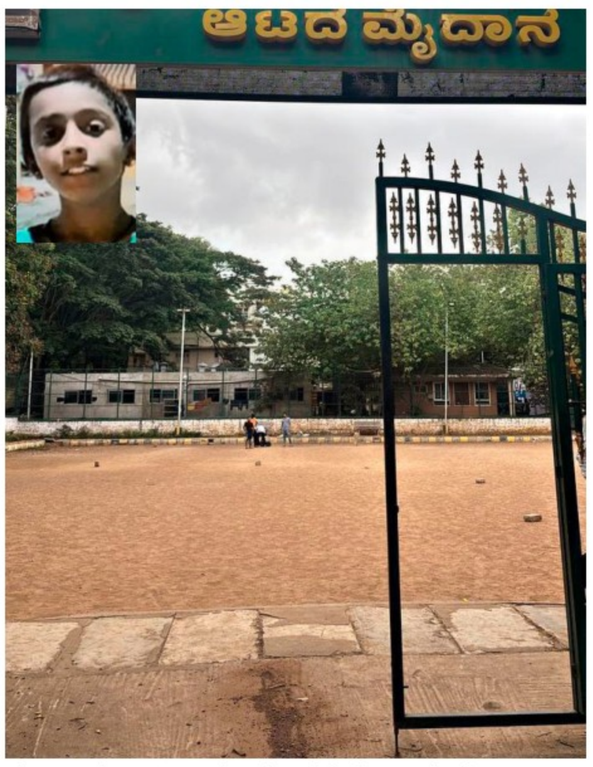
The incident occurred around 4 p.m. when Niranjan and his 13-year-old friend visited Rajashankar Playground (Kulla Park) at Malleswaram to play. According to the police, when Niranjan tried to pull open the main gate, it fell on him and crushed him.

"The boy sustained severe head injury and there was a major blood loss. He died at K.C. General Hospital," a senior police officer said.

Spot inspection by the police revealed that one of the hinges of the gate was rusted, leading to the incident, the officer said.

Niranjan was studying in class 5 in a government school at Malleswaram and used to visit the playground with his friend during weekends and holidays. An eyewitness told reporters that his friends playing cricket heard a sound and when they turned towards it, they saw the gate fall on Niranjan while the other boy escaped narrowly.

"We rushed to his help, and by then a tender coconut vendor who was nearby, with the help of passers-by, pulled out the boy and rushed him to the hospital. The boy had severe head injuries and was bleeding," the witness said.



The spot where Niranjan (inset) was killed at Rajashankar Playground in Malleswaram.

**Spot inspection by the police revealed that one of the hinges of the gate was rusted, leading to the incident, said an officer**

The playground belonging to the BBMP is visited by many, including senior citizens and children. Residents blamed negligence on the part of BBMP authorities concerned for the accident.

Niranjan was the son of Vijayakumar, an autorickshaw driver, and Priya. The Malleswaram police are awaiting the postmortem report and statement of the parents to register a case of unnatural death.

**Minister visits spot**

Health Minister and MLA for Gandhinagar Dinesh Gundu Rao visited the site and spoke with the victim's family. After meeting the parents, Mr. Rao expressed his condolences, stating, "This is a tragic incident. A thorough investigation will be conducted, including examining the role of the BBMP. There were no prior complaints about the faulty gate. If the issue had been brought to my attention, I would have addressed it."

# Second round seat allotment results announced

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority announced the results of the second round of seat allotment for professional courses for UGCET and UGNEET candidates on Sunday on its website. With this, the second round of the admission process for engineering and medical courses will begin on Monday and Tuesday, respectively, said H. Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA, in a release.

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CIN : L93090TN1956GOI003507 Website : www.nlcindia.in

**RECRUITMENT OF GRADUATE EXECUTIVE TRAINEES THROUGH GATE - 2025**

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NLCIL intends to recruit Graduate Executive Trainees (Engineering Graduates) on the basis of GATE-2025 score in various technical disciplines subject to availability of vacancies. Detailed Advertisement will be issued in the Year 2025 indicating discipline wise vacancies and other eligibility norms.

Applicants interested in joining NLCIL as Graduate Executive Trainees in 2025 are required to appear for GATE-2025 exam. Please login to GATE-2025 website **https://gate2025.iitr.ac.in** for complete details.

Start date of GATE-2025 online registration is **28/08/2024** and closing date is **26/09/2024.**

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**C.A.No. : 01/CIDCO/EE(WSP)/2024-25**
**TENDER ID - 2024_CIDCO_1069970_1**

Bidders are requested to take note that Corrigendum No. 6 regarding the Amendment in Pre-Qualification Criteria are uploaded on **https://mahatenders.gov.in** website for the above subject work.

**Superintending Engineer (WS)**
CIDCO/PR/165(A)/2024-25

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Mr. Vijay Sunku, Director, Parimal Mandir
Mr. Venkatesh Vijayaraghavan, CEO, TTK Prestige Ltd
Mr. Gaurav Seth, Head, Pivot Consult, Pivot Roots
Mr. Ganeshram, MD & CEO, MF Utilities India Pvt Ltd
Mr. Narayanan, CEO, Alliance Advertising
Mr. Gandharv Sachdeva, Country Head, India, Hybrid
Mr. Arjun Bhatia, CMO, Matrimony.com Ltd
Mr. R Venkatasubramanian, COO, Havas Play India
Mr. Pankaj Krishna, Founder & CEO, Chrome Data Analytics & Media
Dr. Bagyalakshmi N (Hon.), Executive Director, Tamil & Malayalam Disney Star
Mr. Ajay Varghese, Senior VP investment, Omnicom Media Group
Mr. K.Satyanarayana, Sr Vice President, R K SWAMY Media Group
Mr. Deepak Karnani, Founder, Cereone Media Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Kurian, Director - Marketing & Admin, Veegaland Homes
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Mr. Varun Oberoi, VP & Head Marketing & Corporate Communications, Indo Nissin Foods Ltd.
Mr. Sony V Mathew, Vice President, Head Branding & Communications, ESAF Small Finance Bank
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# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### The amount India pledged to combat cervical cancer

**7.5** in $ million. This was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Cancer Moonshot event hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Delaware. PTI

### The number of people killed in the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023

**41,431** The toll includes 40 deaths in the last 24 hours, as per the health ministry in Gaza, which said 95,818 people have been wounded there since the war began. AFP

### Refund facilitated by the NCH for coaching centre students

**1** in ₹ crore. The National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has facilitated refunds in enrolment fees to students and aspirants of various competitive exams, including UPSC Civil Services and IIT entrance, the government said. PTI

### The cases disposed of at the Chhattisgarh Lok Adalat

**9** in lakh. Cases involving settlements of more than ₹230 crore were disposed of at the National Lok Adalat in Chhattisgarh, according to officials. The maximum number of 1,93,203 cases were disposed of in Bilaspur. PTI

### Number of people affected by severe floods in Chad

**17** in lakh. According to the UN, severe flooding in Chad since July has claimed 503 lives. The disaster has also damaged about 2 lakh houses and 3.5 lakh hectares of land. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# On the pitfalls of estimating GDP

The ongoing GDP series is due for revision. The official agency is considering using GST data to estimate value addition. However, the agency should be careful to not apply unverified datasets and shaky methodologies without adequate testing and validations for GDP estimation

ECONOMIC NOTES

**R. Nagaraj**

Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, is the most significant measure of a country's economic size. It is also a universal denominator for comparing indicators across countries and regions or for sizing up tax burdens or welfare expenditures. GDP is usually more meaningful at "constant" prices or in "real" terms – netting out the effect of price changes. The real GDP is estimated for the "base year", requiring a variety of datasets on output, prices, and employment. Every 5-10 years, the GDP base year is revised to account for changes in relative prices and output composition. The National Statistical Office (NSO) is tasked with " revising" the GDP series, usually drawing upon expertise from many fields.

The ongoing GDP series with the base year 2011-12 is due for revision. 2020-21 is the proposed new base year. All required major datasets are said to be available except for Census data. The NSO is considering using the goods and services tax (GST) data to estimate value addition, replacing the currently used Ministry of Corporate Affairs' MCA-21 database for the Private Corporate Sector (PCS), which accounts for about 38% of GDP.

GETTY IMAGES

**Why the change?**

After all, the MCA-21 database was brought in only in the last revision, with 2011-12 as the base year. Previous to that, the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) was the long-standing workhorse for estimating factory manufacturing value-added. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) small sample of large companies, with the majority paid-up capital of PCS, was used to estimate the non-financial corporate sector output. The statistical agency changed it to the MCA-21 database as the ASI claimed to miss out on value addition outside of factory premises in a corporate entity. Likewise, reportedly, the RBI sample was inadequate to account for the rapidly growing PCS. Moreover, the availability of the extensive and up-to-date MCA-21 data, obtained from the mandatory filing of corporate annual returns and quarterly corporate results – it was contended – would enable fuller capturing of the corporate output.

The 2011-12 base year GDP (replacing the 2004-05 base year series) showed a marginally smaller absolute GDP size and a faster growth rate. But for the manufacturing sector in 2013-14 at constant prices, the annual growth rate was (+) 5.4% in the new series, compared to (-) 1.90% in the earlier series. Such a sharp divergence in the rate and direction of industrial growth by the two GDP series was a surprise. Moreover, the upward revision of the industrial growth rate didn't square with related macro aggregates, such as bank credit growth or industrial capacity utilisation, leading to widespread scepticism of the new GDP estimates. Statistical investigations zeroed in on an untested or inadequately vetted MCA database as the source of the overestimation problem.

The official agency, however, defended its new estimates, claiming they capture value addition more completely, using a much more extensive database, improved estimation methods, and following the latest template of international best practices. Critics, however, wondered if a bigger dataset is necessarily a better data set. And if the new estimates were better or overestimates. The statistical dispute remained unresolved as the government refused to make the MCA data available for independent scrutiny or reveal its estimation methodology for verification.

**Systematic overestimation**

With time, however, it has been possible to compare estimates of Gross Value Added (GVA) in the manufacturing sector as per GDP series (in the National Accounts Statistics) and by the ASI – based on production accounts of registered factories – for a reasonably long period. We compared (i) GVA and (ii) Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) (fixed investment) at constant prices for 2012-13 to 2019-20 as reported by the NAS and ASI. The results were startling. The average annual growth rate of GVA in NAS was 6.2%, while it was only 3.2% in ASI. The difference was much sharper in GFCF: 4.5% by NAS and 0.3% by ASI, respectively. These comparisons show a systematic overestimation in NAS estimates (based on the MCA-21 database) compared to the ASI-based estimates, vindicating the doubts raised about the integrity of the GDP estimates.

The evidence presented here is a cautionary tale for the proposed use of GST data for GDP estimation. It's a stark reminder of the need for the official agency to guard against the hasty application of unverified datasets and shaky methodologies without adequate testing and validations for GDP estimation. NSO must initiate pilot studies to verify the GST dataset's suitability for value addition estimation of specific industries, sectors, and States. Such validation is crucial to ensure the estimation's truthfulness and instil confidence in the integrity of the GST data. Alternatively, NSO could explore reverting to ASI to estimate GDP manufacturing, as the database is now available with a shorter time lag.

GST data can be a game-changer for GDP estimation in the proposed revision. It is a large and up-to-date database, however, its details are in a black box, as it has not been open for policy research. Without systematic analyses and cross-validation disaggregated by production and institutional sectors and regions by independent agencies, the validity of GDP estimates on GST data will be hard to establish.

*R. Nagaraj is with the Centre for Liberal Education, IIT Bombay.*

### THE GIST

- Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, is the most significant measure of a country's economic size. It is also a universal denominator for comparing indicators across countries and regions or for sizing up tax burdens or welfare expenditures.
- For the manufacturing sector in 2013-14 at constant prices, the annual growth rate was (+) 5.4% in the new series, compared to (-) 1.90% in the earlier series. Such a sharp divergence in the rate and direction of industrial growth by the two GDP series was a surprise.
- The evidence presented here is a cautionary tale for the proposed use of GST data for GDP estimation.

# What is the controversy regarding Venezuela elections?

Why did the opposition accuse President Nicolas Maduro of fudging the results? What is their demand?

**Adithya Narayan**

**The story so far:**

On July 28, Venezuela went to polls with the current President Nicolas Maduro facing off against opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez. Four hours after the polls closed, the country's National Electoral Council (CNE) declared Mr. Maduro the winner, citing his tally of 51.21% votes compared to Mr. Gonzalez's 44.2%. However, the opposition was quick to refute these results, saying their count showed Mr. Gonzalez polling 67% of the votes and Mr. Maduro just 30%. They asked the government to publish the vote tally from each polling station, which Mr. Maduro refused. This led to massive protests and a government crackdown wherein 24 people died and over 2,000 were arrested. The winner is scheduled to take oath on January 10, 2025.

**What was status quo before polls?**

Mr. Maduro took over from long-time leader Hugo Chavez following his death in 2013. A country replete with oil reserves, Venezuela's economy has witnessed spurts of booms and lulls since oil reserves were first discovered there in the 1920s, lending it the tag of a petrostate.

Petrostates are marked by governments whose sole focus lies on oil exports, weak political institutions, and power concentrated in the hands of a few politically elite groups. Such nations' economies are fragile and are susceptible to the slightest fluctuations in global fuel prices. They are also vulnerable to a condition called 'Dutch disease'. Governments of afflicted countries have almost completely forgone local oil production, and the major mode of revenue are the taxes paid by foreign drilling companies. An accompanying fallout is the damage borne by labour-intensive industries such as agriculture and manufacturing.

Venezuela met with a similar fate in the early 2010s when global oil prices plummeted. Inflation rose throughout the country and shortage of essential goods became widespread. People protested and Mr. Maduro and his United Socialist Party responded by consolidating power through further crackdowns, inviting the wrath of global powers such as the U.S., which imposed sanctions.

**How were the elections held?**

One of the fallouts from the Ukraine war has been the rising oil prices. To mitigate the crisis, the U.S. eased some of the sanctions on Venezuela in November 2022. The Maduro regime reciprocated by promising free and fair elections this year. This proved to be hollow from the start as the opposition's original candidate Maria Corina Machado and its subsequent choice Corina Yoris were barred from running. Mr. Gonazlez ultimately emerged as the consensus candidate.

To ensure transparency, the electoral system in Venezuela comprises an electronic voting machine which produces a paper receipt after each voter registers their choice at the polling booth. These receipts are then deposited in a ballot box at the booth. At the end of the polls, the voting machines at the booths produce a tally sheet showing the names of every candidate and the number of votes they polled. The electoral authority, long sympathetic to Mr. Maduro, denied the opposition access to the tally sheet.

Foreseeing such adversities, a *Guardian* report states that members of the 10-party opposition coalition called the Democratic Unitary Platform drew up a nine-month-long plan to circumvent the rigged election process. Their strategy, involving more than one million people trained in 5,000 workshops, made sure that the opposition could access 83% of the tally sheets from 30,026 polling stations within 48 hours, revealing that Mr. Gonzalez polled 67% votes.

**What has been the aftermath?**

While China, Cuba, Iran and Russia congratulated Venezuela, a joint statement from 50 countries at the UN called for publishing the vote tally sheets. Media houses such as the *Associated Press* and *The Washington Post* have verified the opposition's results and certified them. However, Mr. Maduro has withheld the release of the vote tally sheets citing a cyberattack but without providing evidence. Crying foul, citizens took to the streets and were met with resistance from the state. The deaths and arrests prompted the United Nations Human Rights Council to call it the most acute human rights crisis in recent history.

### THE GIST

- On July 28, Venezuela went to polls with the current President Nicolas Maduro facing off against opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez. Four hours after the polls closed, the country's National Electoral Council (CNE) declared Mr. Maduro the winner. However, the opposition was quick to refute these results.
- One of the fallouts from the Ukraine war has been the rising oil prices. To mitigate the crisis, the U.S. eased some of the sanctions on Venezuela in November 2022. The Maduro regime reciprocated by promising free and fair elections this year.
- While China, Cuba, Iran and Russia congratulated Venezuela, a joint statement from 50 countries at the UN called for publishing the vote tally sheets.

## CM to launch KHIR-City project near Bengaluru on September 26

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's Knowledge Health Innovation Research-City (KHIR-City) project, considered to be the first-of-its-kind in the country, will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on September 26. The works for the first phase of the project will be launched at Vidhana Soudha.

The innovative city will be established on an area of approximately 2,000 acres, with the first phase being developed on 500 acres. The project, with an estimated investment of over ₹40,000 crore, is expected to generate around one lakh jobs, including both direct and indirect employment, Major Industries Minister M.B. Patil announced on Sunday.

A note from the Minister's office said that KHIR-City draws inspiration from international models such as Singapore's Biopolis, Research Triangle Park, Science Park, KBIC, and the Boston Innovation Cluster. Elements from Bengaluru's Hi-tech City and Electronics City will also be incorporated into the project, which will be located between Doddaballapura and Dobbaspet, about 50 km from Kempegowda International Airport, it added.

To ensure the timely progress of the project, the government has formed an advisory committee comprising eminent personalities such as Devi Shetty, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Prashanth Prakash, Thomas Osha, Ron Kimball, T.V. Mohandas Pai, and Nikhil Kamath, among others, the note said.

"The city will be designed to accommodate a residential density of 100 people per acre. The KHIR-City is expected to make a significant contribution to the State's economy and boost exports, positioning Bengaluru for greater global prominence," Mr. Patil said.

The city will be home to world-class universities, hospitals, innovative industries, and research institutions, which will serve as the cornerstone of this visionary project, the Minister said.

# 'Information on Lokayukta request may have been leaked from Raj Bhavan'

### Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeks probe into Governor's concerns over leak of information

**The Hindu Bureau**
KALABURAGI

Responding to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's concern over the leak of confidential information relating to the Lokayukta approaching him for consent to prosecute some JD (S) and BJP leaders, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the information may have been leaked from the Governor's office itself, and sought an investigation in this regard.

Interacting with pressmen at the Ginigera airstrip in Koppal district before reaching Tungabhadra dam to offer 'bagina', Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "As for the leak of information, it might have been done at the Governor's office itself. Let there be an investigation."

Referring to the Governor's letter to the State government seeking Justice H.S. Kempanna Commission's report on the denotification of 541 acres for the Arkavathy Layout in Bengaluru (known as the re-do case), Mr. Siddaramaiah said he came to know about the letter through newspapers and added that he would look into it.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and others offering 'bagina' to the Tungabhadra at the Tungabhadra reservoir near Hosapete in Vijayanagara district on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I came to know about the Governor writing to the Chief Secretary seeking details about the denotification of land for Arkavathy Layout. We will look into it... The Supreme Court had asked the Bengaluru Development Authority to re-do the process," he said.

On speculation of a hike in milk prices, the Chief Minister said the benefits of the hike, if any, would be transferred to the farmers. "We will discuss it in the Cabinet and take a call," he said.

**'No vindictive politics'**

Countering the BJP's allegations over the arrest of Munirathna, MLA, the Chief Minister said that his government never resorted to vindictive politics.

"We never do vindictive politics. Have we told anybody to commit an offence? As for the case against Mr. Munirathna in particular, many legislators met and demanded a Special Investigation Team to probe the charges against him. There are three charges against him - extortion, corruption (under PCR Act), and rape. What should we do? First Information Reports are filed as he had committed the offences," Mr. Siddaramaiah said, adding that his government had never forced anybody to file complaints against the accused.

The Chief Minister, along with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and other Cabinet colleagues, later visited the Tungabhadra reservoir near Hosapete in Vijayanagara district and offered 'bagina' to the Tungabhadra, besides honouring workers who installed the crest gate on a war footing.

# T.B. dam crest gates will be replaced in a year: DKS

**The Hindu Bureau**
KALABURAGI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Department of Water Resources portfolio, has said that all 33 crest gates at the Tungabhadra reservoir will be replaced within a year.

Addressing a public function on the Munirabad Government Primary School premises on Sunday, after offering 'bagina' at the reservoir along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, he said the process of installing new gates would be initiated after consulting the other riparian States: Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

"Engineer Kannaiah Naidu helped us save over 20 tmcft of water by installing a temporary stop log gate after crest gate no. 19 was damaged. It saved crops on 9 lakh acres. The whole country was looking at the dam and it was a great achievement to fix it in such a short time," he said.

Pointing to approximately 33 tmcft of silt on the reservoir bed, Mr. Shivakumar said that a balancing reservoir would shortly be built at Navali in Koppal district to compensate for the loss of water caused by the silt at the Tungabhadra dam.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar speaking at a public meeting at Munirabad in Koppal district on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"A detailed project report is ready. About 15,000 acres are required for the project. We cannot utilise around 33 tmcft of water from the Tungabhadra owing to an equal amount of silt accumulated on the reservoir bed. Building a balancing reservoir at Navali is the solution for this. I will meet the Chief Ministers and Irrigation Ministers of neighbouring States soon and discuss the project," he said.

Terming the Tungabhadra dam as a contribution of the Congress, Mr. Shivakumar said that no one can distort history.

"Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had termed dams as the temples of modern India. We had started Tunga aarti some time back, and now we have decided to start Cauvery aarti. We have formed a team and it is studying Haridwar, Kashi, and a few other places," he said.

# BJP claims irregularities in purchase of equipment for govt. medical colleges

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP on Sunday demanded the resignation of Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, while accusing him of indulging in irregularities to the tune of ₹117 crore to buy equipment for 18 medical colleges.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, N. Ravikumar, BJP MLC, said the party will file a complaint in this regard with the Lokayukta on Tuesday. A decision on whether the Governor should also be petitioned in this regard would be taken after consulting BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra.

**Probe sought**

He demanded that the government should order a probe either by a retired judge or an independent investigative agency to look into the alleged irregularities.

N. Ravikumar

He said the Medical Education Department had procured 114 modular operation theatre equipment for 18 government medical colleges, including those in Haveri, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Yadgir, Bengaluru, and Mysuru at a cost of ₹176.7 crore. But the government had suffered a loss of ₹117 crore owing to irregularities involved in the tendering process, he alleged.

Mr. Ravikumar alleged that the Medical Education Department had rejected the bid of a Kerala-based company that had offered to supply equipment at a cost of ₹49.7 lakh each, and instead favoured firms that quoted nearly three times more.

**Govt. loss**

The government had suffered a loss of a little over ₹1 crore for the purchase of each of the 114 equipment, he alleged, and wondered why the Kerala-based firm's bid had been rejected despite the company offering a warranty of three years.

## Minister denies allegations

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil has strongly denied the allegations of irregularities in the procurement of equipment for government medical colleges and said that the e-procurement norms had been strictly adhered to under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act.

"We have strictly given the contracts to the lowest bidders. Let the BJP furnish documents to prove its allegations," the Minister told *The Hindu*.

## Case against Customs official

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against the Superintendent of Customs (Inland Container Depot) in Bengaluru in a disproportionate assets case accusing him of "illegal enrichment done intentionally during the period of his office".

The accused officer has been identified as Ramesh Chandra Tripathi, Superintendent of Customs, posted at the Inland Container Depot (ICD), Whitefield.

According to a statement, based on the information that Customs officials of ICD, Whitefield, were accepting illegal gratification, the CBI conducted a joint operation at the ICD on September 20 and 21.

**KELADI SHIVAPPA NAYAKA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES, IRUVAKKI, SHIVAMOGGA - 577412**
Office of the Estate Officer, Iruvakki-577412
Shivamogga District.
Mobile No: 9480838979 Email: eo@uahs.edu.in
No.:KSNUAHS(I)/EO/D.B./T.N.-11/24-25 Date: 20.09.2024

**Tender Notification**

**Regarding construction of Pendal& Stall and carrying out other works related to the Pendal for Agriculture and Horticulture Mela for the year 2024-25 to be held at Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga.**

**(Only Through e-Procurement Portal)**

Tender is invited from Eligible Firms and Agencies for construction of Pendal& Stall and carrying out other works related to the Pendal for Agriculture and Horticulture Mela for the year 2024-25 to be held at Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga. Tender Notification, Schedule and details of Tender are available in website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in E.M.D. should be paid in e-procurement payment mode.

**Tender Schedule Dates are as below: 1.** Last date & time for submission of Tender: 28.09.2024 Up to 4.00 PM **2**. Date & time of opening the Technical Bid: 30.09.2024 At 10.00 AM **3**. Date & time of opening the Financial Bid: 01.10.2024 At 10.00 AM

Details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. Estate Officer, Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Sagara Taluk, Shivamogga-577 412, can be contacted on phone no.: 9480838979 on all working days.

**Sd/- Estate Officer, University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga - 577225**
DIPR/KSMCA/S/24-25/119/09/727

## 'Panchamasali quota agitation will be intensified'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

Basava Jayamrutyunjaya Swami of Kudalasangama Panchamasali Peetha said in Belagavi on Sunday that the agitation to seek re-categorisation of reservation to the community will intensify in the coming days.

He was speaking at the formation of a committee consisting of advocates from the community to contribute to the agitation and handle litigation.

To a query, he said he was not restricting his fight to Panchamasalis, but to the whole Lingayat community.

**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)**

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

**Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.**

| Sl. No. | Division | IFT Number | Amount put to tender / EMD Amount | Last date & time for receipt of tender | Date & time for opening of tender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | North-East | BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1766/ 2024-25 Date: 21.09.2024 | Rs.5,87,133/- Rs.14,700/- | 03.10.2024 upto 4.00 pm | 05.10.2024 after 3.00 pm |
| 2 | | BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1768/ 2024-25 Date: 21.09.2024 | Rs.12,37,437/- Rs.31,000/- | | |
| 3 | | BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1770/ 2024-25 Date: 21.09.2024 (Reserved for SC Category) | Rs.10,15,934/- Rs.12,700/- | | |
| 4 | | BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1772/ 2024-25 Date: 21.09.2024 | Rs.16,31,097/- Rs.40,780/- | | |
| 5 | | BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1774/ 2024-25 Date: 21.09.2024 (Reserved for SC Category) | Rs.9,44,027/- Rs.11,900/- | | |
| 6 | | BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1776/ 2024-25 Date: 21.09.2024 (Reserved for ST Category) | Rs.13,94,532/- Rs.17,450/- | | |

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (North East)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/2123/AKAR/2024-25

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH

SAD DEMISE
Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un We surely Belong to Allah And To Him We Shall Return Quran 2:156
D.O.B
10 - 10 - 1932
D.O.D
21 - 09 - 2024
OUR FAMILY With Great Sorrow Announce The Death of
M.M. RAFI (92 Aged)
FOUNDER CHAIRMAN OF MMR GROUP (LIGHT ROOF)
Passed away on : 21/ 09/ 2024 @ 8.15 pm
Please make DUA for his Magfirath
Sons Mohammed Ansari & Fazal Mohamed
Daughters Rahmath, Nilofer & Rizwana

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

**RESPECTFUL HOMAGE**
**Thirteenth Death Anniversary on 23.09.2024**

Dear Professor
**Prof. (Dr).A.M.SELVARAJ**
FRCP (Edin) T.D.D.(Wales)

**For the Hardwork, Stress and Sleepless, Nights You have endured**

**For the Compassion, Concern and Kindness You have shown**

**And For all the Obstacles you have had to overcome in the never-ending Fight Against Disease**

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

# Judicial appointments and disappointments

Judges are the ultimate authority in the interpretation of the Constitution, and so must be learned in the law. But who will select the judges, and ascertain their qualifications and class character?

**V. R. Krishna Iyer**

*On September 20, the Supreme Court asked the Attorney General for India why the names reiterated by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment as judges were not yet cleared, as Collegium reiterations are binding on the Union government. Following the remark, the Union government processed the appointment of eight new High Court Chief Justices. In this article dated August 18, 2012, V. R. Krishna Iyer talks about the importance of upholding the judiciary's independence.*

ISTOCKPHOTO

The Constitution of India operates in happy harmony with the instrumentalities of the executive and the legislature. But to be truly great, the judiciary exercising democratic power must enjoy independence of a high order. But independence could become dangerous and undemocratic unless there is a constitutional discipline with rules of good conduct and accountability: without these, the robes may prove arrogant.

It is in this context that Chief Justice S.H. Kapadia's observations, at an event at the Supreme Court of India on Independence Day, underlining the need for the government to balance judicial accountability with judicial independence, have to be reconciled with what Law Minister Salman Khurshid observed about judicial propriety. It is this reconciliation of the trinity of instrumentality in their functionalism that does justice to the Constitution. A great and grand chapter on judicial sublime behaviour to forbid the "robes" becoming unruly or rude and to remain ever sober is obligatory.

The Constitution has three instrumentalities – executive, legislative and judicative. The implementation of the state's laws and policies is the responsibility of the executive. The Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister at the Centre and the Cabinet led by the Chief Minister in the States, are its principal agencies. The rule of law governs the administration.

Parliament consisting of two Houses and legislatures at the State level make law. When the executive and the legislature do anything that is arbitrary, or contrary to the constitutional provisions, the judiciary has the power to correct them by issuing directions under Article 143. The Constitution lays down the fundamental rights, and if the States do not safeguard them, any citizen can approach the Supreme Court for the issue of a writ to defend his or her fundamental rights. Thus, among the three instrumentalities, the judiciary has pre-eminence. But the judiciary itself has to act according to the Constitution and work within the framework of the Constitution.

Felix Frankfurter pointed out thus: "Judges as persons, or courts as institutions, are entitled to no greater immunity from criticism than other persons or institutions. Just because the holders of judicial office are identified with the interests of justice they may forget their common human frailties and fallibilities. There have sometimes been martinets upon the bench as there have also been pompous wielders of authority who have used the paraphernalia of power in support of what they called their dignity. Therefore judges must be kept mindful of their limitations and of their ultimate public responsibility by a vigorous stream of criticism expressed with candour however blunt."

**Ultimate authority**

Judges are the ultimate authority in the interpretation of the Constitution, and so must be learned in the law and in the cultural wealth of the world. They play a vital role in the working of the Constitution and the laws. But how judges are appointed is a matter of concern. Simply put, the President appoints them, but in this the President only carries out the Cabinet's decisions.

The Preamble to the Constitution lays down as the fundamentals of the paramount law that India shall be a socialist, secular democratic republic which shall enforce justice – social, economic and political – and ensure liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity, and promote among them fraternity, ensuring the individual's dignity and the nation's unity and integrity.

**Need for clarity**

But who will select the judges, and ascertain their qualifications and class character? Unless there is a clear statement of the principles of selection, the required character and conduct of judges in a democracy may fail since they will often belong to a class of the proprietariat, and the proletariat will have no voice in the governance: the proprietariat will remain the ruling class.

Winston Churchill made this position clear with respect to Britain thus: "The courts hold justly a high, and I think, unequalled pre-eminence in the respect of the world in criminal cases, and in civil cases between man and man, no doubt, they deserve and command the respect and admiration of all classes of the community, but where class issues are involved, it is impossible to pretend that the courts command the same degree of general confidence. On the contrary, they do not, and a very large number of our population have been led to the opinion that they are, unconsciously, no doubt, biased."

We in India have under the Constitution the same weaknesses pointed out by Churchill, with the result that socialism and social justice remain a promise on paper. Then came a new creation called collegiums. The concept was brought in by a narrow majority of one in a 5-4 decision of the Supreme Court for the selection of judges. It was binding on the executive, the decisions of which in turn were bound to be implemented by the President.

Thus, today we have a curious creation with no backing under the Constitution, except a ruling of the Supreme Court, and that too based on a very thin majority in a single ruling. Today, the collegium on its own makes the selection. There is no structure to hear the public in the process of selection. No principle is laid down, no investigation is made, and a sort of anarchy prevails.

In a minimal sense, the selection of judges of the highest court is done in an unprincipled manner, without investigation or study of the class character by the members of the collegium. There has been criticism of the judges so selected, but the collegium is not answerable to anyone.

In these circumstances, the Union Law Minister has stated that the government proposes to change the collegium system and substitute it with a commission. But, how should the commission be constituted? To whom will it be answerable? What are the guiding principles to be followed by the Commission? These issues remain to be publicly discussed. A constitutional amendment, with a special chapter of the judiciary, is needed. Such an amendment can come about only through parliamentary action.

Surely a commission to select judges for the Supreme Court has to be of high standing. It must be of the highest order, of a status equal to that of the Prime Minister or a Supreme Court judge. The commission's chairman should be the Chief Justice of India.

In the process of selection, an investigation into the character, class bias, communal leanings and any other imputations that members of the public may make, may have to be investigated. This has to be done not by the police, which function under the government, but by an independent secret investigation agency functioning under the commission's control. These and other views expressed by outstanding critics may have to be considered.

The commission has to be totally independent and its ideology should be broadly in accord with the values of the Constitution. It should naturally uphold the sovereignty of the Constitution beyond pressures from political parties and powerful corporations, and be prepared to act without fear or favour, affection or ill-will. It should act independently – such should be its composition and operation. The commission should be immune to legal proceedings, civil and criminal. It should be removed only by a high tribunal consisting of the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of all the High Courts sitting together and deciding on any charges publicly made. We, the people of India, should have a free expression in the commission's process.

*V.R. Krishna Iyer, eminent jurist, was a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India.*

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

# *I am trying to cut down on carbs*

I am toying with the same idea but I don't know if I will be able to do it. I have a huge appetite

**S. Upendran**

"Come on in! How was dinner?"

"The venue was great! Fancy lighting and what not. As for the food, most of us toyed with it."

"Toyed with it? You mean that you threw it around because it was bad?"

"No, no! When you toy with your food, you move the items on the plate around, but don't really eat. You take a bite every now and then, but you show no enthusiasm to eat."

"Is it because the food is no good?"

"It could be that! Or it could be that you're not focussed on what you're eating. Perhaps your mind is on something else."

"I see. I toy with my food whenever I'm worried about something."

"Many of us do that! The expression can be used other objects as well. When you toy with a pencil, for example, what you're doing is moving it around with your finger in an absent-minded manner."

"In other words, you're thinking about something else while you're rolling it."

"Exactly! Whenever Jai gets nervous, he toys with his collar button."

"I've seen him do that quite often. Are you still hungry?"

"Yes, I am! Do you have anything that I can wolf down?"

"Wolf down?"

"When you 'wolf down' a pizza, you eat it very quickly. You are very hungry, and as a result, you gulp down the slices as quickly as possible. You're not..."

"In other words, you bite off big chunks of the pizza and swallow."

"Very good! You eat very quickly, and don't really worry about table manners."

"In other words, one eats like a wolf."

"You have to remember that this expression, like 'toy with' is mostly used in informal contexts. Dev is someone who takes his time over a meal. He doesn't wolf things down."

"The children wolfed down the pastries that the parents had bought."

"I'm starving."

"I have some ice cream and a couple of pastries in the fridge. Interested?"

"The doctor has asked me to cut out pastries from my diet."

"Cut out? Does it have the same meaning as 'cut down'?"

"No. The two mean something very different. When you 'cut down on' something, what you're doing is reducing the quantity that you eat. For example, when you say that you've cut down on the chappathis you have at night..."

"You don't eat the same number of chappathis that you used to earlier. You have reduced the number."

"That's right! But you still eat chappathis. You haven't stopped eating them. When you 'cut out' chappathis from your diet, what it means is that you've stopped eating them completely. Perhaps your doctor has asked you to stop eating them for health reasons."

*upendrankye@gmail.com*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

# September 23 is International Sign Languages day, meant to support and protect the linguistic identity of all sign language users. How much do you know about signing?

**Ramya Kannan**

**QUESTION 1**
How many sign languages currently exist in the world?

**QUESTION 2**
In a particular country's sign language format, a well-formed question requires a specific eyebrow position. For instance, the eyebrows should ideally move down for a W question (what, who, where, why, and when) and up for a yes/no question. Which country's language is this?

**QUESTION 3**
Does brain damage affect the ability to sign?

**QUESTION 4**
According to the World Federation of the Deaf, how many deaf people are there in the world?

**QUESTION 5**
While not known for developing sign language, X is said to have collated the first known manual alphabet, which spells out letters with hand signs, based on gestures monks living in silence used. He used this to help educate deaf children in Spain. Who is X?

**Visual question:**
What does this gesture in the Indian Sign Language represent?

**Questions and Answers to the September 20 edition of the daily quiz:** 1. The UEFA men's Champions League started in 1956 as the European Cup and in 1992 became the UCL. Name the inaugral winners of both versions. **Ans: Real Madrid and Marseille**
2. The most significant change in the latest version of the tournament. **Ans: A league phase to replace the group stage**
3. This team holds both the record for most defeats and most goals conceded in the tournament. **Ans: Real Madrid itself with 110 defeats and 537 goals conceded**
4. Name the only club outside the top five leagues to win the tournament in the 21st century. **Ans: FC Porto**
5. These were the finalists when the infamous Heysel disaster took place. **Ans: Liverpool and Juventus**
Visual: Name this iconic manager and the club he managed. **Ans: Béla Guttmann and Benfica**
**Early Birds:** Tito Shiladitya| Dodo Jayaditya| Animesh Mohan| Bharath Viswanathan| Viraaj Gaur

## Word of the day

**Pendant:**

an adornment that hangs from a piece of jewelry (necklace or earring); held from above and hanging down

Usage: *She wore a blue pendant around her neck.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/pendantpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpɛnd(ə)nt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

# How a city-farmer partnership is revolutionising solid waste management in Chickballapur

A unique solid waste management project in Chickballapur, near Bengaluru, has proved a win-win model for both farmers and the civic administration

**Yemen S.**
BENGALURU

G.V. Suresh, a 27-year-old farmer who grows roses and potatoes in his farmland at Gundlagurki, in Chickballapur district abutting Bengaluru, has now switched to organic compost. This has hugely helped him cut down costs, while making farming more sustainable.

He is one of the many farmers who are part of the City-Farmer Partnership for Solid Waste Management project launched in Chickballapur, with the support of Chickballapur City Municipal Council (CCMC) and Godrej Properties Limited (GPL), by the Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS), Bengaluru.

This initiative transforms organic wet waste into compost for farmers, assists self-help groups (SHGs) in managing textile waste, and provides guidance for transporting and disposing of non-recyclable plastic. The key goals include ensuring farmers have access to organic compost, encouraging sustainable agricultural practices, and offering education and training on sustainable waste management.

Under this project, wet waste is collected from the municipal council, transferred to compost pits at farmlands, turned into compost, and given to farmers for free. This project, planned for three years, is expected to benefit more than 200 farmers and process roughly 33,000 tonnes of solid waste. Started in March this year, so far, the project identified 251 farmers in 21 villages around Chickballapur, out of which 121 farmers were involved in wet waste segregation, and a total of 109 farmers received compost. A total of 1,008 tonnes of waste was supplied to farmers out of which 759 tonnes were processed to compost.

Wet waste being dumped at a compost pit as part of the City-Farmer Partnership for Solid Waste Management at Chickballapur.

Wet waste collected at a compost pit at Chickballapur.

### Challenge in small towns

The project gains significance in a context where SWM is often perceived as a challenge confined to larger cities, but is increasingly posing problems in towns and rural areas too. Despite having smaller populations, these regions often lack the necessary infrastructure, resources, and regulatory frameworks to handle waste effectively. Poor waste disposal practices, open dumping, and limited recycling options are common, leading to significant environmental and public health risks.

The Chickballapur project of City-Farmer Partnership for Solid Waste Management of IIHS has won praise for addressing this challenge by promoting scientific approaches to handling different types of solid waste.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Pushkara S.V., a senior manager at IIHS and one of the initiators of the project, said that it is important to implicate projects like these across small cities in the country. "We have around 5,000 cities in India, apart from the huge cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi. Out of these, there are about 500 cities that have a population over a lakh like Tumakuru, Mysuru, and Mangaluru. The remaining 4,500 cities have a smaller population. Most SWM projects by urban local bodies in big cities focus on waste management techniques that require the local bodies to spend extra money. But it can not be implemented in smaller cities due to the lack of capital and for many other reasons. In smaller cities like Chickballapur, collecting waste and dumping it in a landfill has been the only solution," he says.

But the project wanted to change this module. "We spoke to the local urban body here and asked if they were willing to give their wet waste to farmers, who could use it for compost in their farms. We knew that farmers are very knowledgeable when it comes to topics like composting, so we went to them without hesitation. We spoke to more than 250 farmers, and we convinced them to set up compost pits in their own farmlands, trained a few of them on how to make compost, and educated the farmers on the benefits of using organic compost over chemical options. We are giving the compost to the farmers for free, which is benefiting the farmers and also cutting down on the processing cost for the municipal council," Pushkara added.

Uma Shankar, the municipality commissioner of Chickballapur says that initially the municipal body was concerned if the farmers would agree to process wet waste in their farmlands, but it is now a success. "As a city's municipal council, disposing of waste was one of our major concerns. We would collect wet and dry waste separately, but it would not be segregated to the fullest. On average we would get 3-3.5 tonnes of wet waste every day, but again our processing techniques were not the best. When IIHS came to us with this idea, we were not sure if this was practical, we were not sure if farmers were okay receiving wet waste from us, as they feared it would be mixed with plastic or other dry waste. But we along with IIHS gave it a try, and the farmers were also supportive," he says.

They have arranged for wet waste to be transported to the pits in the farmlands, and IIHS adds their in-house culture to the pits for better compost. Now the municipal council focuses majorly on dry waste collection, as half the burden has been reduced, Shankar added.

### Chemical to organic fertilizer

Suresh, meanwhile, is happy with how the new method has changed his farming for the better. "We used to use only dung and chemical fertilizers in our farms. But people from IIHS introduced us to organic compost. I started using the compost and I saw improvement and good results immediately. We have seen growth in the size of potatoes and roses are also flowering well," said the young farmer.

"Getting fertilizers and compost from vendors would also cost us around ₹6,000 per tractor load. We do not spend any more money on tractor loads as the compost pits are right in our farmlands," Suresh explained.

Similarly, K. Gangappa, a 56-year-old florist and a grape farmer from Anakanur, in Chickballapur, said he was one of the first farmers to take up this initiative. "We have got our first load of compost through this project, and it has been very fruitful. Making the compost pits on our farms has made a huge difference for all the farmers who are part of this project. We spend anywhere between ₹6,000-₹7,000 every month or for every yield on transportation of fertilisers and compost, but now, everything is available at our own farms. Even the transportation of wet waste from the landfill to our farm is taken care of."

Gangappa is very happy since the yield is healthier and is selling well. "The quality and quantity of our produce has improved," he said, adding that he plans to stick to this new-found method of fertilising his land.

# An exhibition celebrating the creativity of dementia patients

The exhibition featured the creative works of seniors from their Dementia Care Centre. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

KITES Senior Care hosted 'Colourful Whispers', an impactful art exhibition on September 21, World Alzheimer's Day, at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur.

According to the press release, 'Colourful Whispers' aimed to raise awareness about dementia, a growing global health crisis, whilst also emphasizing empathy, understanding, and community involvement to combat dementia.

The exhibition featured the creative works of seniors from their Dementia Care Centre, drawing attention to the important cause of dementia awareness and support.

The exhibition witnessed almost 500 attendees, who also demonstrated a strong collective commitment to advancing the fight against this pervasive condition.

M.N. Anucheth, IPS , Joint Commissioner of Traffic, Bengaluru said, "It is both inspiring and humbling to witness the resilience and creative spirit of the seniors. Initiatives like 'Colourful Whispers' not only showcase the artistic abilities of individuals living with dementia but also serve as a reminder of the importance of empathy, awareness."

# *India's area under sustainable farming is about 3.6 mn hectares: Giriraj Singh*

According to the Union Minister, about 20% to 27% of Indian farmers currently use green and organic fertilizers which is about the same ratio as in the rest of the world

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

With the world moving towards sustainable farming with about 110 million hector under natural farming, in India the area under sustainable farming is about 3.6 million hectors, said Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Textiles recently at an event.

However, according to the Minister, about 20% to 27% of Indian farmers currently use green and organic fertilizers which is about the same ratio as in the rest of the world.

### Harmful for health

"We need to stop using chemical fertilizers as it is both harmful to the soil and human health, for a healthy India organic is the way," he said, adding that Innovation in farming, including working on bio-fertiser was critical for the country's further development.

Mr. Singh was speaking at an event organised by Multiplex Group, a biofertizer and farmer supportive company, based in Bengaluru.

Union Minister for Textiles (second from left) Giriraj Singh inaugurating the event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Minister further said the Union government's goal was to become carbon neutral by 2030 and by 2070 the country would be carbon negative.

"Bio-fertilizers, sustainable farming, e-tractors, e-vehicles all will help in achieving our sustainable goals," he added.

Ram Nath Thakur, Minister for State, Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India, stressed the need for supporting the country's farming community in adopting sustainable farming practices. He urged Multiplex and other organic fertilizer manufacturers in the country to focus on providing innovation and cost effective solutions for farming.

Minister for Agriculture, Karnataka,. N. Cheluvarayaswamy, said Indian farmers have to adopt organic fertilizers and natural farming and Multiplex Group, a company from the state, has been leading the way in bio fertilizers in the country.

**The Minister further said the Union government's goal was to become carbon neutral by 2030 and by 2070**

### Challenges into opportunities

Mahesh G. Shetty, Managing Director of Multiplex Group of Companies said, "Throughout the past five decades, we have transformed challenges into opportunities, making significant strides in key areas of achievement: namely Innovation, Service, Research & Development, Community development, Sustainability."

Multiplex which is into biofertilizers, biopesticides, nutrients and bio-stimulants, has presence in 17 countries.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 23, 1974

## Family Planning: Karnataka's Record

Bangalore, Sept 22: The implementation of the family planning programme in Karnataka is expected to bring down - the present Birth rate of 39 per thousand to 25 per thousand in the State by. 1978-79. About 23 lakhs births are expected to be averted in the next three decades.

Karnataka is a pioneer State in the field of family planning. The Karnataka State Government was the first Government in the country to open two family planning clinics as far back as 1930. On June 11, 1930, the Government of Karnataka issued orders to open the first Government birth control clinic.

## Bangalore Phone System Being Improved

Bangalore, Sept 22: The telephone system in Bangalore would improve considerably by March next, Mr. N. V. Shenoy, Secretary to the Union Ministry of Communications, told newsmen here to-day.

He explained that the major source of trouble was the Central Exchange with outmoded equipment. Steps had been taken to scrap about 2.000 lines from the exchange and install new equipment by March next. The Malleswaram Exchange was expected to be ready by December and some difficulties experienced with the Shankarapuram crossbar exchange both in design and performance would be overcome. He said the Bangalore system had equipment capable of catering to a certain number of calls.

# How this Bengaluru woman won ₹9 lakh just by sleeping

Saishwari Patil, an investment banker from Bengaluru, turned her love for sleep into a lucrative project by winning a sleep internship

Praveen Sudevan

"*Aise kaise ho sakta hai?* (How can that be?)" gasped Saishwari Patil's friend's mother in response when Saishwari told her she won ₹9 lakh for sleeping. A reasonable reaction, one would think.

Saishwari, an investment banker from Bengaluru, has turned her dreams of catching up on sleep into a lucrative reality. She recently won the 'Sleep Champion' title in Bengaluru-based start-up Wakefit's third season of its sleep internship programme. She was one of the 12 'sleep interns' of the programme – designed for individuals who prioritise sleep but often find their lives interfering – requiring participants to sleep diligently for at least eight to nine hours every night.

Additionally, participants were encouraged to take 20-minute power naps during the day. Each selected intern was provided with a premium mattress and a contactless sleep tracker, to monitor and improve their sleep patterns. The interns also attended regular workshops led by experienced sleep mentors to improve their sleep habits and increase their chances of winning the 'Sleep Champion' title.

Across three seasons, the sleep internship programme has attracted over 10 lakh registrations and engaged 51 interns, who have collectively earned 63 lakh in stipends.

The seventh edition of *The Great Indian Sleep Scorecard 2024* (WakeFit's survey) reported that nearly 50% of India wakes up feeling tired. Due to factors such as long working hours, poor sleep environment, stress and anxiety, lack of physical activity, etc., sleep deprivation has become common in the country. "The sleep internship programme is the company's tongue-in-cheek way to rekindle India's relationship with sleep by incentivising the interns with a stipend," says Kunal Dubey, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO), Wakefit.

While the programme might seem like a dream job, it also involved strict adherence to a sleep schedule and participation in sleep-related activities.

"You need to become a disciplined sleeper. There's no way around it," says Saishwari, "To get a good average score, you need to maintain consistent wake-up and sleep times. This means cutting down on late-night activities like binge-watching and scrolling through social media. It's challenging to break these habits, but it's very rewarding."

"COVID disrupted my routine, and I was sleeping irregularly. My career as an auditor also demanded long hours. This internship taught me to be a disciplined sleeper," she adds.

While the primary objective of Wakefit's sleep internship programme is to improve sleep quality, the competitive aspect introduces an interesting paradox. While most contests require participants to be energised and adrenaline-fuelled, this one demands the opposite: a state of deep relaxation.

The pressure to win can often lead to increased stress and anxiety, which can ironically hinder sleep. Participants must balance the desire to excel in the competition with the need to maintain a calm and relaxed state.

"The thought of improving my sleep score during the internship was a bit stressful. The sleep competition was a crazy concept. You can prepare for exams, but how do you prepare to sleep well? On the day of the finale, my goal was to stay relaxed and present in the moment," recalls Saishwari.

She also thanks her workplace for accommodating her strict sleep schedules. Saishwari's journey into the sleep internship began with a casual application, driven more by curiosity than a burning desire to win. "I think I am a good sleeper. I can sleep anywhere. I have fallen asleep even on bike rides," she chuckles, "So, a friend and I thought we'll randomly apply because it seemed like a crazy idea."

However, as she got in, she became increasingly invested in the programme. Her experience also provided valuable insights into the science of sleep. "I learned about the different sleep cycles and their importance for well-being. Lack of quality sleep can affect concentration, productivity, and emotional resilience," she says, "Deep sleep is essential for physical repair, strengthening the immune system, releasing growth hormones, and clearing metabolic waste from the brain. REM sleep is important for memory consolidation and emotional regulation. This internship introduced me to the fascinating world of sleep science," she adds. "I'm intrigued and will continue to learn and explore sleep strategies. I'll also advocate for the importance of sleep."

## Sleep internship selection process

**Entry Shortlist Round:** Applications are initially screened to create a shortlist of candidates
**Video Resume Round:** Shortlisted candidates submit video resumes, highlighting their passion for sleep and their suitability for the programme
**Personal Interview:** Finalists are interviewed to assess their enthusiasm for improving their sleep quality

## Saishwari's sleeping tips

**Listen to mantras/meditative music.** Their repetitive nature and frequency help the body release tension and enter a relaxed state, which is essential for falling asleep and maintaining deep sleep.
**Shower about an hour before sleeping.** It is a myth that showering drives sleep away. In fact, a good warm shower promotes muscle relaxation and also lowers the body temperature, thereby helping improve the quality of your sleep.
**Form and stick to a bedtime ritual.** Consistency helps regulate your body's internal clock, improving the ability to fall asleep quickly and sleep deeply. Some activities I suggest would be reading and practising gratitude.

**Drifting away** Saishwari Patil and a sleep tracker.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Shining bright** Ujwal Nair and Indou Theagrajan and a still from Lucky Dog.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# 'Lucky Dog' goes to Busan

S Poorvaja

Eight years ago, Ujwal Nair was planning to head to Canada to study Animation when his plans came crashing down, following a visa rejection. "I have complicated feelings about this experience," he confesses. He recalls being haunted by this rejection, and how there seemed to be no way to escape discussions back then, about immigrating to study, or for professional opportunities.

This complex world of immigration and privilege, forms the crux of his animated short film *Lucky Dog*, which is all set to have its international premiere at the upcoming 29th Busan International Film Festival in South Korea. From among 4,351 films, the film has been selected as part of the Wide Angle – Asian Short Film Competition, and is among 10 other films.

In *Lucky Dog*, Dice, the four-legged protagonist, decides to follow his owner Disha to Canada. The rules are no different for him though, and he needs a visa. The visa office is much of where *Lucky Dog* is set in, with characters bursting into song about being enamoured with the West and wanting to reunite with a loved one.

To tell this story through animation seemed like an obvious choice for Ujwal. "I cannot talk incessantly about how much the rejection weighed on me, and was thinking about what would be a fun and interesting way to do this. Film seemed like the best medium to express myself, and animation is something I love working on. It combines all my strengths – drawing, writing, filmmaking and even acting, given that I have some theatre experience," he says. Ujwal is credited as the writer, director, production designer, and cinematographer. The process, though long, seemed achievable, says the Chennai-based self-taught animation artist.

With a day job in marketing, Ujwal's weekends for over four years were dedicated to working on this satire-comedy, with a small team and a tight budget. *Lucky Dog* is Ujwal's third animated short in the last eight years, and he credits his skills to time spent working at animation studios in the past.

Given the themes that the film deals with – Ujwal says he relied on personal experiences and observation, to make it as raw and real as possible. "Rather than doing voice-overs for the characters, we realised that the most entertaining way to tell this story was through music and wordplay. Once the script was in place, Aditi Ramesh, a Bengaluru-based composer came on board," he says. The songs in *Lucky Dog*, written by Ujwal and composed by Aditi stand out – each more whimsical, quirky, and thought-provoking than the other.

In January this year, *Lucky Dog* had a special screening at the inaugural edition of Mumbai's Animela Festival.

At the 16th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK), this was one of two animated films in the competition short fiction section.

"The inclusion of an animated short in this category, and the response we have got at screenings so far has been promising. Independent animation is getting a lot more recognition around the world," says Indou Theagrajan, co-producer of *Lucky Dog*.

Both Indou and Ujwal acknowledge the difficulties in securing funding for independent projects, especially involving animation. "Every aspect of art in the country, not just performing arts, needs to be funded. There is also a misconception in India that animation is meant for children. Animation is a medium of filmmaking, and not just for children," Indou says.

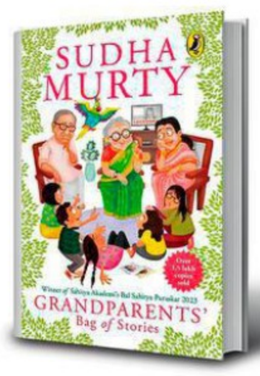
The spotlight on *Lucky Dog*, and its upcoming international premiere has them enthused. "At Busan and even in Kerala, the film being included in general categories along with live action films is very encouraging," says Ujwal.

"It is befitting that *Lucky Dog* is having an international premiere in an Asian country, given the themes the film deals with, and we believe this has resonated with the selection committee," he adds.

# Giving Grandpa a chance

Mahima Nagaraju

When Sudha Murty started writing 44 years ago, she did not think a "book written by someone without a background in literature" would get published or that anyone would want to read it. At the recent release of her 300th title, *Grandpa's Bag of Stories (Puffin)*, she had a message for her younger self, "Literature does not have borders or a degree. It is about a passion to express yourself in words. As long as you have that passion, you will write."




*Grandpa's Bag of Stories*, is a collection of 19 stories about four children and their grandparents' journey to Mayawati, a scenic region in Uttarakhand. Along the way, their grandfather regales them with tales of kings and princesses, mermaids, and bitter gourds, imparting wisdom and compassion.

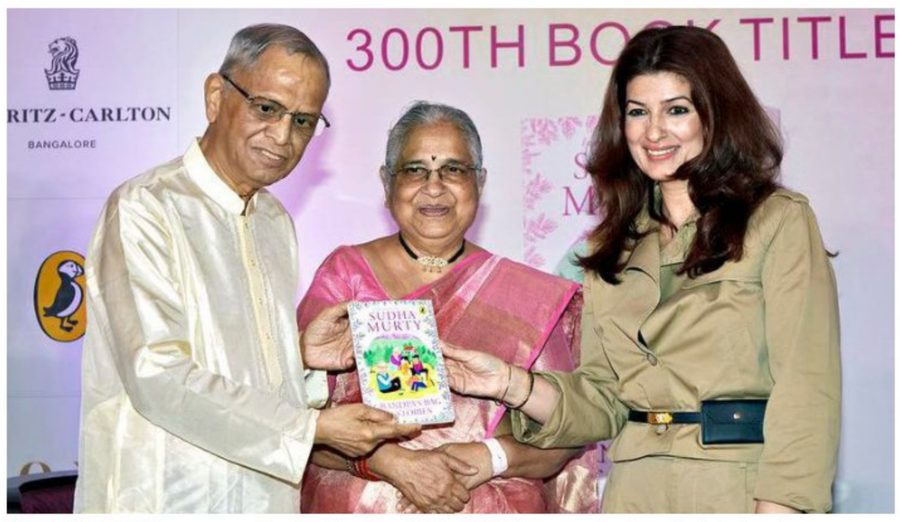
The book launch was attended by prominent Bangaloreans, littérateurs, publishers and translators. In conversation with actor and writer Twinkle Khanna who released the book, Sudha talked about her approach to writing, telling stories as a grandmother, and other books that are in the pipeline.

When asked who was the better storyteller at home, Sudha admitted she was a step ahead of her husband, Infosys co-founder, Narayana Murthy. "In this book, I purposely wrote 'grandpa stories' because Murthy doesn't tell stories. Maybe one day he will write a book on technology, such as *C++ for four year-olds* or *How to teach Pascal to a six year old*," she joked. "It becomes too much for a grandmother to tell stories every time and as an author, you don't like monotony. So this time round, I decided it would be a grandfather, even though the stories and the voice are mine."

Speaking about the unique challenges that come with writing for children as compared to writing for adults, Sudha said she always tried to write positive stories that imparted morals without being preachy.

"If I say "You should work hard", "Always tell the truth", then they'll think it is a moral science class and tune out. That is why I convert the whole theme into a story." Constantly seeking feedback from her readers also helps her write better, Sudha says, "They ask me tough questions which I enjoy. After interacting with children I wonder, is the language alright? Is the story repetitive? Children tell me these things."

Next, Sudha wants to write a book on unusual *shlokas* – a project she has been mulling over for years. "I recall a beautiful *shloka*, which my grandfather used to recite; it called on Raghu, Nala, Arjuna and Shakuntala's son Bharata. All these people left their homes, conquered the world, returned safely and looked after their kingdom. My grandfather always said when someone was setting out for a journey, it was apt to say, 'Go out, conquer the world and come back safely'. These are some of the unusual shlokas I wish to write about."




**The write word** Narayan and Sudha Murthy with Twinkle Khanna at the launch of the book.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Students, activists urge IISc to cancel India-Israel summit

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Students, faculty members from several universities, and activists have called upon the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru to cancel the India-Israel Business Summit, which is scheduled for Monday.

In a petition to the Director of the IISc with over 1,500 signatures, they have said, "As you know, Israel is currently engaged in a brutal war. In this campaign, Israel has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, most of whom are women and children... The International Court of Justice recently ruled that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories violated international law, and the UN General Assembly recently passed a resolution with an overwhelming majority urging an end to this occupation. We also witness the world academic community and various universities divesting from Israel due to students and faculty members coming out in solidarity with Palestine."

It said, "Such cooperation would amount to direct support for Israel's genocide in Palestine and its aggressive actions against its neighbours. We request you to stop the 'India Israel Business Summit' event on September 23 and not allow the use of the Indian Institute of Science as a platform to legitimise genocide and colonialism."

The event is being organised by Think India, the Indian Chamber of International Business, and the Mysore Lancers Heritage Foundation at an auditorium in the IISc.

"The summit aims to bring together business leaders, entrepreneurs, and policymakers from both countries to discuss and explore potential areas of cooperation, foster partnerships, explore synergies, and drive innovation," said Think India in a social media post.

# SIT to probe 'adulteration' of ghee used in Tirumala

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT), led by a police officer of the rank of Inspector General (IG), to inquire into the alleged adulteration of ghee used in the preparation of the laddu *prasadam* at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirumala, and has expressed his resolve to initiate stringent action against those responsible for it.

# Haifa Liberation Day: War relic rests in family home connected to Mysore royals

Sword of Bedouin leader Rizkalla Salim, known for most raids on the Suez canal, has been with the family of the late Risaldar Lingaraj Urs, who was part of Mysore Lancers

**Sharath S. Srivatsa**
MYSURU

The role of Mysore Lancers in the liberation of Haifa, an important port city in Israel during World War I, has been well documented. Even as the Haifa Liberation Day is set to be observed on Monday, another slice of Mysuru's connection has largely remained in the shadows.

A war memorabilia is tucked away inside a family home connected with the erstwhile Mysore royal family. The sword that belonged to Bedouin leader Rizkalla Salim, known for most raids on the Suez Canal and disruption of the movement of ships during World War I, has been with the family of the late Risaldar Lingaraj Urs that resides in Mysuru.

Though it has been in their house for over 100 years, it became public only recently. Those in the Urs community connected to the family knew of the sword of the Bedouin leader that was seized by Lingaraj Urs after killing him in a hand-to-hand combat. He had kept it as part of his personal belongings.

Lingaraj Urs was part of Mysore Lancers, which fought in the war as part of the Imperial Army. They were posted in the Suez Canal area and assigned to guard it from the East Bank from the Ottomans and the Germans, who were regularly attacking the canal area, says *Traces of War*, which tracks the war history.

T.V. Nagaprasanna Raje Urs, grandson of Mysore Lancers soldier Risaldar Lingaraj Urs, holds the sword of Bedouin leader Rizkalla Salim who was killed in 1915. M.A. SRIRAM

"In October 1915, in the eastern parts of Kantarah area, Mysore Lancers saw 60 camel-mounted Turkish troops, with a backup of 200 more, advancing. They were engaged, chased seven miles, eastwards. The notorious Salim was engaged in a hand-to-hand fight, and was killed by A. Lingaraj Urs. After Salim's death, the attempts on the canal entirely ceased. For his act of bravery, Lingaraj Urs was awarded the Indian Order of Merit (2nd Class)."

Lingaraj Urs, however, could not be part of the jubilant returning troops that received a royal welcome. Just before the World War I ended, a fight broke out at Aleppo in current Syria on October 25, 1918, between the British army and the Ottoman troops that were moving toward Damascus. As many as 13 soldiers from Mysore Lancers, including Lingaraj Urs, were killed on October 26.

According to the Commonwealth Grave Commission, Lingaraj Urs was cremated at Basra Memorial in Iraq. His name is also engraved on the Teen Murti Memorial at Delhi and the World War I memorial in Bengaluru.

"We have the sword of Rizkalla Salim since the end of the world war," said T.V. Nagaprasanna Raje Urs, 81, an agriculturist and grandson of Lingaraj Urs.

According to him, the sword and a few shells along with his personal belongings were brought and handed over to the family by Capt. A. Basavaraje Urs.

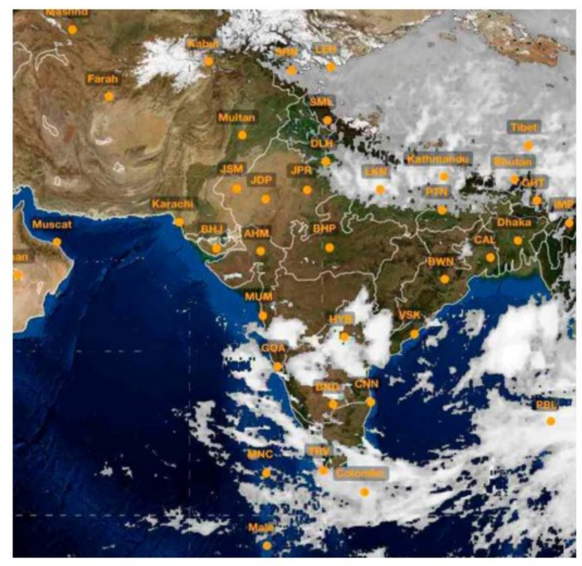
### Securing Suez Canal

Secretary of Mysore Lancers Heritage Foundation Anil Raje Urs, who has been chronicling achievements of the Mysore Lancers, said: "The British understood the importance of the Suez Canal to keep in touch with its empire in south, south-east, and far-east Asian regions and ensure oil supplies from the Persian Gulf countries."

R. Raja Chandra, son-in-law of Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, the last Maharaja of Mysore, said that the Suez Canal battle in the world war was fought by Mysore Lancers with spears, Amruth Mahal bullocks, apart from horses. "Carts driven by Amruth Mahal bullocks were used as ambulance to transport the injured. It was such a significant achievement that after the killing of Rizkalla Salim by Lingaraj Urs, the disruption in the Suez Canal stopped."

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Monday:** Hot & humid weather very likely at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura. Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland.

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | 7.0 | 34.6 | 24.0 | Kozhikode | — | 34.5 | 25.6 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 35.7 | 27.2 | Kurnool | 0.3 | 34.4 | 24.7 |
| Aizawl | 2.0 | 35.0 | 22.6 | Lucknow | — | 35.2 | 25.0 |
| Allahabad | — | 36.5 | 27.7 | Madurai | — | 38.6 | 24.7 |
| Bengaluru | 2.0 | 28.5 | 20.1 | Mangaluru | 5.0 | 30.0 | 23.0 |
| Bhopal | — | 33.8 | 24.8 | Mumbai | — | 32.4 | 26.8 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 34.0 | 25.5 | Mysuru | — | — | — |
| Chandigarh | — | 36.1 | 25.4 | New Delhi | — | 33.9 | 26.0 |
| Chennai | — | 32.7 | 26.8 | Patna | — | 35.5 | 28.2 |
| Coimbatore | — | 34.0 | 22.4 | Port Blair | 66.0 | 30.5 | 23.8 |
| Dehradun | — | 34.0 | 22.7 | Puducherry | — | 34.9 | 24.7 |
| Gangtok | 0.4 | 25.8 | 19.5 | Pune | 0.4 | 31.6 | 21.3 |
| Goa | 1.0 | 30.8 | 24.5 | Raipur | — | 33.0 | 25.5 |
| Guwahati | — | 37.9 | 26.5 | Ranchi | — | 32.0 | 24.3 |
| Hubballi | — | 28.0 | 23.0 | Shillong | — | 29.9 | 18.6 |
| Hyderabad | 61.5 | 32.0 | 21.4 | Shimla | — | 27.6 | 18.9 |
| Imphal | — | 33.0 | 19.9 | Srinagar | — | 33.8 | 15.2 |
| Jaipur | — | 35.6 | 26.7 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 32.5 | 25.6 |
| Kochi | — | 30.8 | 25.4 | Tiruchi | — | 37.1 | 27.0 |
| Kohima | 1.0 | 26.4 | 18.4 | Vijayawada | 14.0 | 35.2 | 25.6 |
| Kolkata | 22.0 | 35.8 | 24.0 | Visakhapatnam | — | 35.2 | 26.6 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 11 | 12 | 33 | 138 | 82 | |
| Bengaluru | 6 | 23 | 93 | 49 | 52 | |
| Chennai | 15 | 1 | 26 | 63 | — | |
| Delhi | 9 | 90 | 74 | 416 | 460 | |
| Hyderabad | 7 | 5 | 99 | 52 | 73 | |
| Kolkata | 5 | 100 | 26 | 41 | 35 | |
| Lucknow | 9 | 7 | 66 | 38 | 73 | |
| Mumbai | 3 | 22 | 56 | 55 | 116 | |
| Pune | — | 50 | 83 | 36 | 54 | |
| Visakhapatnam | 7 | 32 | 15 | 74 | 96 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 236 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Cuddalore, Karwar and Tirunelveli recorded a healthy AQI score of 21.

**Air Quality Code:** Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

THE HINDU

# EDUCATIONPLUS

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# Artificial Intelligence or Academic Integrity?

## Should AI-assisted writing be allowed in academic journals?

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

**Julian Kopli**

If you search Google Scholar for the phrase "as an AI language model", you'll find plenty of AI research literature and also some rather suspicious results. For example, one paper on agricultural technology says, "As an AI language model, I don't have direct access to current research articles or studies. However, I can provide you with an overview of some recent trends and advancements."

Obvious gaffes like this aren't the only signs that researchers are increasingly turning to generative AI tools when writing up their research. A recent study examined the frequency of certain words, such as "commendable", "meticulously" and "intricate" in academic writing, and found they became far more common after the launch of ChatGPT; so much so that 1% of all journal articles published in 2023 may have contained AI-generated text.

Why do AI models overuse these words? There is speculation it's because they are more common in English as spoken in Nigeria, where key elements of model training often occur.

### Concerns

Many people are worried by the use of AI in academic papers. Indeed, the practice has been described as "contaminating" scholarly literature. Some argue that using AI output amounts to plagiarism. If your ideas are copy-pasted from ChatGPT, it is questionable whether you really deserve credit for them.

But there are important differences between "plagiarising" text authored by humans and text authored by AI. Those who plagiarise humans' work receive credit for ideas that ought to have gone to the original author. By contrast, it is debatable whether AI systems like ChatGPT can *have* ideas, let alone deserve credit for them. An AI tool is more like your phone's autocomplete function than a human researcher.

Another worry is that AI outputs might be biased in ways that could seep into the scholarly record. Infamously, older language models tended to portray people who are female, black and/or gay in distinctly unflattering ways, compared with people who are male, white and/or straight, though this is less pronounced in the current version of ChatGPT.

However, other studies have found a different kind of bias in ChatGPT and other large language models: a tendency to reflect a left-liberal political ideology. Any such bias could subtly distort scholarly writing produced using these tools.

The most serious worry relates to a well-known limitation of generative AI systems: that they often make serious mistakes that have been referred to as "AI hallucinations". It may be much harder to identify mistakes ChatGPT makes when surveying scientific literature or describing the state of a philosophical debate. Unlike most humans, AI systems are fundamentally unconcerned with the truth of what they say. If used carelessly, their hallucinations could corrupt the scholarly record.

### To ban or not?

One response to the rise of text generators has been to ban them outright. For example, *Science* – one of the world's most influential academic journals – disallows any use of AI-generated text. I see two problems with this approach. The first is a practical one: current tools for detecting AI-generated text are highly unreliable. This includes the detector created by ChatGPT's own developers, which was taken offline after it was found to have only a 26% accuracy rate (and a 9% false positive rate). Humans also make mistakes when assessing whether something was written by AI.

It is also possible to circumvent AI text detectors. Online communities are actively exploring how to prompt ChatGPT in ways that allow the user to evade detection. Human users can also superficially rewrite AI outputs, effectively scrubbing away the traces of AI.

The second is that banning generative AI outright prevents us from realising these technologies' benefits. Used well, generative AI can boost academic productivity by streamlining the writing process. In this way, it could help further human knowledge. Ideally, we should try to reap these benefits while avoiding the problems.

The most serious problem with AI is the risk of introducing unnoticed errors, leading to sloppy scholarship. Instead of banning AI, we should try to ensure that mistaken, implausible, or biased claims cannot make it onto the academic record. After all, humans can also produce writing with serious errors, and mechanisms such as peer review often fail to prevent its publication.

We need to get better at ensuring academic papers are free from serious mistakes, regardless of whether these mistakes are caused by careless use of AI or sloppy human scholarship. Not only is this more achievable than policing AI usage, it will improve the standards of academic research as a whole.

This would be (as ChatGPT might say) a commendable and meticulously intricate solution.

The writer is Lecturer in Bioethics, Monash University, and Honorary fellow, Melbourne Law School, Monash University, Australia.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Dr. Reddy's Foundation Sashakt Scholarship**
An initiative of Dr. Reddy's Foundation.
**Eligibility:** Open to female students from India who have passed Class 12 from a recognised board, have a strong academic record and are willing to pursue a B.Tech. in Natural/Pure Sciences, M.B.B.S., or B.Sc. programme in a specified institution.
**Rewards:** ₹80,000 per annum for three years
**Application:** Online
**Deadline:** October 30
www.b4s.in/edge/RFTS4

**NSP Pre-Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities**
An initiative of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Government of India.
**Eligibility:** Open for Indian nationals in Class 9 or 10, in a recognised school with a disability of over 40% certified by the competent authority. Annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakhs.
**Rewards:** Maintenance allowance of up to ₹1,000, disability allowance of up to ₹4,000, and a book grant
**Application:** Online
**Deadline:** October 31
www.b4s.in/edge/PMFS1

**NSP Post-Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities**
An initiative of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India.
**Eligibility:** Open to Indian citizens studying from Class 11 to a PG programme in a recognised institution and a disability of at least 40% as defined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Annual family income must be less than ₹2.5 lakhs.
**Rewards:** Maintenance allowance up to ₹1,600, disability allowance of up to ₹4,000, plus benefits
**Application:** Online
**Deadline:** October 31
www.b4s.in/edge/PMSD1

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

## The InAugural Scholarship

The University of Wollongong India (UOW India) has launched The InAugural Scholarship for its upcoming November intake. It offers financial benefits to students applying to Computing and Fintech courses. Applicable to those who pay the deposit by October 4, 2024, the scholarship entitles students to 50% off on tuition fees for all Master's degrees for the first trimester and 25% off on tuition fees for all Graduate Certificates for the first trimester to begin in November 2024.

# Unwarranted curbs

## Fact-checking cannot be an excuse to impose censorship

The Centre's move to create a 'fact-checking unit' empowered to order the removal of 'fake or false or misleading' information from digital and social media platforms was never likely to succeed. Justice A.S. Chandurkar of the Bombay High Court struck down the amended rule, in a tie-breaking ruling after a two-judge Bench, in January, was split over its constitutional validity. In an opinion that makes it a 2:1 decision, he agreed with the view of Justice G.S. Patel, who had held that the provision violated the right to freedom of expression and sought to coercively classify speech as true or false based on vague and undefined terms. The rule, introduced as an amendment in 2023 to the rules governing information technology intermediaries and digital media ethics, meant that once the fact-checking unit flagged a piece of information on a social media platform as fake, false or misleading, the platform was bound to take it down. Failure to do so would result in its losing its 'safe harbour' protection, or exemption from legal action for third party content hosted on a platform. Editors and publishers rightly saw the creation of a fact-checking unit in the Press Information Bureau as a mechanism by which the Centre could censor anything that it disputes. Political satirists will be forced into self-censorship, argued comedian Kunal Kamra. The government contended that recklessly published material that was contrary to truth cannot have constitutional protection and that aggrieved platforms were free to approach the courts for remedy.

However, two of the three judges have found the rule unconstitutional, noting that the terms 'fake', 'false' or 'misleading' were not defined and there was no scope for redress provided in the rules. Another point that went against the government was that the restriction was applied only to information about the Centre, and not other kinds of information. Justice Chandurkar also agreed with Justice Patel that a restriction on free speech based on whether something is true or false was not one of the circumstances listed in Article 19(2) of the Constitution for imposing reasonable restrictions. The other judge on the Bench, Justice Neela Gokhale, had upheld the rule, holding that it was not vaguely worded and that there was no bar on a platform publishing a disclaimer to retain its safe harbour protection. She also rejected the idea that such a rule would have a chilling effect on free speech. The prevalence of misinformation or false information is a problem that undoubtedly requires to be tackled, but it cannot be an excuse to create a mechanism by which the government becomes a judge in its own cause or the sole arbiter of what information about itself is misleading.

# Sri Lanka's verdict

## The spirit of the mandate of the presidential poll was clear — for change

The people of Sri Lanka have voted for change in the ninth presidential election with their nod to Anura Kumara Dissanayake of the National People's Power (NPP). Even though Mr. Dissanayake, also the chief of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), had to go through a second round of counting – a first since the introduction of the system of executive presidency in 1978 – the spirit of the mandate is for a change and a perceptible shift away from the established, traditional parties and groups that dominated the political landscape. It is remarkable that the JVP, a party with Marxist origins, that is leading the NPP, has been able to get about 42% of the vote share, unlike its poor showing in 2019 and 2020. And though lower than in 2015 and 2019, voter turnout was about 79.5%. Given their constraints, all the contestants conducted themselves in a way that reflected their faith in the democratic system. It is also no surprise that the purpose for which the popular uprising *Aragalaya* ('struggle' in Sinhala) took place, found resonance in the campaign and verdict.

As economic woes had triggered the uprising, all the contenders had focused on the economic factor. Mr. Dissanayake told *The Hindu* recently that fixing the battered economy would be among his priorities. Despite being a Leftist, the JVP leader appears receptive to welcoming private and foreign investments. His election manifesto talks of renegotiating, rather than scrapping, with the IMF the $2.9 billion bailout agreement. What Mr. Dissanayake should not overlook is that he has to adopt a consensual path while implementing his economic policies and programmes. It is also going to be challenging when it comes to the other facets of governance and how he will be able to ensure a "system change" as he has repeatedly attacked the present "corrupt political culture". The promise to hold elections to provincial councils – a tier of government that the JVP had once opposed – must be reassuring to Tamils. In the area of foreign relations, Mr. Dissanayake, dubbed by his critics a "pro-China" leader, is expected to extend his pragmatism – he did visit India early this year. His manifesto also mentions that Sri Lanka's territory would not be allowed "to threaten or risk the national security of any country in the region including India". But it remains to be seen how the new President will translate into action his electoral promise of abolishing the current system of executive presidency, a matter that has refused to die down in the political discourse of the country for over 30 years. Mr. Dissanayake, who will be assuming charge under not so comfortable conditions, requires understanding and cooperation from every section of Sri Lankan society.

# *India needs a 'National Security Strategy'*

**Tara Kartha**

Director, (Research and Analysis) Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi

The demand for a national security strategy is again under public discussion as the neighbourhood gets into a flux, old enemies muscle up, and new friends are yet to commit themselves. India's economic ambitions to be a $4 trillion economy, is also likely to also face strong headwinds as the wars in Ukraine and Gaza continue, dragging down global growth. The economy is really the key to everything else. After all, everyone wants a slice of the economic pie, from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Defence. That means prioritisation within rather scarce resources, and that is the key to national security strategy making.

**Interpreting the term**

For such an exercise, one has to first decide what comes under the umbrella term of 'national security'. The problem is it means different things to different states, at different times.

For the United States, it once centred around a 'union of our values and national interests'. That means you can stand up as the most powerful democracy, even while supporting a clutch of dictators for economic gain. After all, while Joe Biden's National Security Strategy (NSS) mentions 'values' 29 times, it is centred around the need to maintain America's leadership role. That means money. The U.S. NSS is the starting point for a host of other documents such as the Defence Department's National Defense Strategy, and, thereafter, the 'Posture' document of each service. Then comes budgeting, where funds are sanctioned by Congress. Here is what else it is.

Across administrations, it is part of a power projection exercise, internally and externally. Externally, it is aimed to put the fear of god into such newly rising upstarts as China, and, internally, to project strength and determination to voters. Its public documents, therefore, showcase its capabilities, and sometimes exaggerate it. The United Kingdom which still sees itself as a global power, used an Integrated Review in 2021 that stressed working together with allies for a global role. It can hardly afford aircraft for its carriers, but it still helps to project oneself as a "European power with global interests". For President Emmanuel Macron of France, the 2022 review arose from the break out of the Ukraine war, and a restatement of French nuclear deterrent. It was a political document in a bid for European leadership. It did not quite work, but the point was that it was issued for a specific purpose. There are no two opinions on the fact that India needs an NSS, that will bring together diverse aspects such as defence, finance, investments and climate change into one coherent whole, and then set a direction for the country. However this exercise needs to be done within the realm of top secrecy for some very good reasons. Consider that it will demand a clear statement of threat.

> It needs to bring together diverse aspects such as defence and finance into a coherent whole; however, this is an exercise that needs to be conducted quietly

**Now, multi-alignment**

Budget speeches make no reference at all to the 'enemy' outside or within. Indeed, they hardly even mention defence. While it is accepted that the protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity lies at the heart of national security, every Finance Minister is well aware that a strong economy is also aimed at an ability to retain sovereignty in international relations. Poor nations have to trail after the powerful ones, or form their own groupings. For India, that was once the Non-Aligned movement. That once 'core value' has been jettisoned given the need to defend itself against a belligerent eastern neighbour of highly unequal economic strength, even while not appearing to do so. Thus, it is "multialignment', which means making friends with whoever is capable and willing to provide a possible back up in a crisis, and perhaps defence technology. Hence the Quad (Australia, India, Japan and the U.S.), which discusses security bilaterally even while the grouping backs the freedom of the seas. On the other hand is BRICS, a China-led economic grouping together with Brazil and Russia, because you are not quite sure of putting all your eggs in one western basket. Besides, India's $85 billion trade deficit with Beijing rather complicates things, given its frequent forays into and claims of Indian territory. Imagine how all of this would be described in a public national security document. No amount of good English can hide the fact that we cannot defend against China on our own, or that we have so little to do it with. Neither can we talk glibly about 'allies' like the U.K. does. We do not believe in alliances.

From threat prioritisation, the next level is the allocation of tasks to each service and the equipment that it needs to fulfil its mandate. True, defence budgeting is a relatively transparent exercise. However, a 'strategy' will need to decide which equipment or service one has to lean towards, and where it falls short. For instance, if the 'Indo-Pacific' is part of a strategy, then a hard exercise has to be on how to quickly upgrade your submarine- and ship-building capabilities. India's submarine strength is about a fourth of China's, while the picture is even worse in ship-building. Neither is the lag in the commissioning of warships something that you would want to advertise. A clever drafter could get round the details, but then without a clear identification of where our priorities and weaknesses lie, it is hardly a worthwhile exercise. Transparency is for the strong and not for those struggling to catch up. That is also why Pakistan's defence budget is so opaque. A secret document on the other hand needs to highlight serious weaknesses, not just project 'can do' bravery. That is not strategy. That is hopeful optimism.

Now, consider what the central message needed for the voting public should be in an open document. The current trajectory of social media opinion demands a fair bit of chest thumping. Some of this is valid. After all, India is not prone to 'adventuring'. But when it went to the defence of another country, it delivered results and withdrew speedily unlike global hegemons who got bogged down in places such as Afghanistan. These are values to be proud of. But neighbours would hardly appreciate one's tom-tomming this as a virtue – at least not in the current dispensation. Besides, a rapacious public wants more. It wants a declaration of might and more. This kind of bravado would have the Opposition on your neck. So, internally, it has little value for political gain. Externally, a written National Security document would hardly allow the dexterous foreign policy flexibility apparent from our careful balancing on the Russia-Ukraine and Gaza wars, for instance. Backing democracy strongly in a written NS document would then be an exercise in hypocrisy. The U.S. can be as hypocritical as it pleases. It is a world power. India is not.

**A full thread running through the economy**

In sum, a national security document is an urgent need. It is not just about defence. Linked closely to it are priorities within the economy that will give a direction to industry, to financial institutions, and all the other tentacles that make up the lifeblood pulsing through the economy. That exercise is generally done piecemeal through various annual reports and surveys. The trick is to integrate it all together and set a direction for the country to reach where it wants to go, and fast. Therefore, the exercise is one best kept close to one's chest, even as directives are issued separately to ministries and others. The National Security Council Secretariat is more than up to the task. Similar exercises have been done before, though in a voluminous style so beloved of bureaucracy. Here is some advice: keep it simple, keep it short, and keep it specific. And, above all, keep it well under wraps. Your enemies would be dying to know its contents.

# *Brace for the new threat to air passenger safety*

**Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan**

a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India

The recent and startling incidents in West Asia of exploding pagers and walkie-talkies have had another effect. A question mark now hangs over the safety of flights. The Israelis, with the blessings of the Americans and the western world, have been running amok. Do the powers realise that the backlash is going to affect innocent air travellers? When the COVID-19 pandemic grounded flights worldwide, the world pointed the finger at China. It is now obvious that Israel has escalated matters and its tactics may pose risks to aviation.

**The VVIP loophole in India**

In the 1970s and 1980s, hijacking was the method used to settle political scores. It fizzled out slowly until the 9/11 tragedy that set off worldwide paranoia. The security checks introduced took the pleasure out of flying. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) came up with several safety standards to prevent another 9/11 event. The world, except India, exempted only a limited number of dignitaries from the mandatory security checks. In 1989, in India, there were just five categories of persons exempt from security checks (even Union Cabinet ministers were not exempt; the Governors of States were added to the list later). But India is the only country where individuals with very suspect and shady antecedents get VVIP status because of the illogical exemption granted by the government to please its political colleagues.

> The carriage of electronic devices could now face scrutiny, and India needs to take proactive steps to ensure air safety given its flawed security system

The new Israeli-designed threat is going to be a major issue in India's perforated safety shield. It is perforated as government agencies are alleged to have infiltrated the phones of several citizens, including those in the judiciary, with the repeated use of Pegasus spyware.

Those of us who have travelled by air will be aware of safety announcements requiring you to put your mobile phone in 'flight mode' before the aircraft moves out of the bay. The announcement to turn off flight mode is made only after landing. But there are many passengers who do not observe this rule ever in India. If this happened elsewhere, they could be arrested as it is a criminal offence.

The restriction on cellphones came into effect after an airline crash was identified to have been induced by an incoming signal to a live phone on board. This triggered a wrong input to the aircraft autopilot. Only a few survived that crash. Since then, mobile phones have become more advanced and airliners now have built-in shields for the systems to prevent cell phone interference. Even so, all airlines continue to observe this restriction as a safety precaution in case there is a shield failure.

**The issue of decompression**

The latest threat, from West Asia, has the potential to mushroom into a major problem. The explosions that could be triggered in small electronic devices, as seen in Lebanon, may cause damage only to a few in the proximity of the device, due to the miniature size of the device. These explosions were obviously triggered by an implanted code.

But has anyone imagined the consequences if a few of these explosions in small devices are triggered in an aircraft cabin during flight at high altitude? They could start a cabin fire. A series of small explosions could damage the pressure bulkhead and the resultant decompression would require oxygen masks to be deployed for use by passengers. When there is a cabin fire and there is also oxygen, the result is a catastrophe and a catch-22 situation. If you use the oxygen, you are dead due to the fire. If you do not use the oxygen, you are brain dead. There is only a small window of time for one to become brain dead if you do not get your oxygen mask on immediately (*see table*).

By turning a blind eye to the 'battlefield' activities of Israel, the western world is only causing irreparable damage to safe air travel. Does the West realise the consequences?

There are many restrictions on checking in electronic devices in one's baggage, but what happens to vulnerable electronic devices in the cabin that can now be a potential safety threat? Will airlines now ban the carriage of these devices? It is obvious that it is an external signal that triggers the explosions in these electronic devices. Airlines will now have to ban the use of Wi-Fi on board so that no coded device can be triggered. One cannot prevent a determined terrorist from masquerading as an innocent air traveller – 9/11 showed us what can happen.

The ICAO safety manual makes it mandatory that hand baggage has to be carried on board by the passenger concerned only. In India, so-called VVIPs and even government officials have their bags brought on board by others. This is a serious offence. How difficult will it be for a terrorist to pay one to place something inside one of these VVIP bags that has bypassed security? Imagine the result if such a bag is triggered when the aircraft is about to land in crowded cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, or Chennai?

**Have a safety net**

After the incidents in Lebanon, one can expect enhanced security, worldwide, soon. In fact, all passengers flying from Beirut have now been banned from carrying pagers and walkie-talkies and this applies to checked and carry-on luggage and cargo. The airline industry will suffer until governments wake up to the dangerous path that Israel is treading.

Meanwhile, the Indian government has to take proactive steps such as banning Wi-Fi on board and even consider having signal shields in and around airport terminals. After all, when 5G was being introduced, several safety steps were introduced before they were permitted in the vicinity of airports. Proactive action is what is required for air safety.

### Time of useful consciousness (TUC)

The TUC, or the time a person can remain conscious at a given altitude, decreases drastically as altitude increases

| Altitude (feet) | Flight level | Pressure (hpa) | Temperature (C) (ISA) | Consciousness |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15,000 | 150 | 571.8 | -14.7 | 30 minutes or more |
| 18,000 | 180 | — | — | 20 to 30 minutes |
| 22,000 | 220 | — | — | 5 to 10 minutes |
| 25,000 | 250 | 376 | -34.5 | 3 to 5 minutes |
| 28,000 | 280 | — | — | 2.5 to 3 minutes |
| 30,000 | 300 | 300.9 | -44.4 | 1 to 3 minutes |
| 35,000 | 350 | 238.4 | -54.2 | 30 to 60 seconds |
| 40,000 | 400 | 147.5 | -56.5 | 15 to 20 seconds |
| 45,000 | 450 | — | — | 9 to 15 seconds |
| 50,000 | 500 | — | — | 6 to 9 seconds |

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Tirupati laddu**

Whether the allegations that adulterated ghee was used in the preparation of the revered Tirupati laddu *prasadam* are a political stunt or not only time will tell (Inside pages, "Naidu says A.P. govt. plans to 'purify' Tirumala temple", September 22). Devotees value spirituality and are unable to understand why one of the richest places of worship in the world cannot afford top-class equipment to test the ingredients. Who are the culprits in this episode?

**Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,**
Faridabad, Haryana

The 'adulteration' controversy is emblematic of sacred divinities being hyper-commodified as commercial entities. The corporate structure and profit-making ethos have affected the *prasadam*. It is now nothing but another product to strengthen the balance sheet. All governments must divest themselves of the responsibility of managing the religious affairs of temples and their properties, because they are supremely unqualified to do so.

**G. Parameswaran,**
Coimbatore

As a devout follower of Lord Balaji, I find the allegation and reports to be most disheartening. The very thought that impure ingredients could have been used is distressing. It hurts the core beliefs of every devotee who visits Tirupati with faith and devotion. If a 'ghee test' was conducted earlier, why has it taken so long for this information to surface? I cannot help but wonder whether this issue has been politicised. One thing is clear. The trust of devotees must not be broken. A thorough investigation should be conducted. We need to protect the sanctity of our religious spaces and ensure that our faith in both god and humanity remains intact.

**Shayla Sharma,**
Jammu

# Capturing the cost of healthy diets

**Kalyani Raghunathan**
is with the International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi. Views are personal

**Sudha Narayanan**
is with the International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi. Views are personal

**Anita Christopher**
is with the International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi. Views are personal

Despite falling poverty rates and rising incomes over the last decade or more, India has struggled to substantially improve its nutritional outcomes. The National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) in 2015-16 and 2019-21 show stubbornly high rates of undernutrition among children and high (and rising) rates of anaemia among adults, even as obesity and overweight prevalence has increased in both rural and urban areas.

Healthy nutritious diets are widely recognised as key to tackling the so-called 'triple burden of malnutrition', that is, the coexistence of undernutrition, overnutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies, as is the case in India. Unfortunately, most Indians do not consume healthy diets.

One of the key barriers to better eating is the cost of healthy diets. Indeed, rising food prices have been in the news over the last several months, especially for nutritious foods such as vegetables, fruits, pulses, and eggs. Coming as real wages are stagnating, or even declining, this suggests that healthy diets are becoming more and more expensive. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 report estimates that 55.6% of India's population (788 million people) could not afford to purchase a diet that met their nutritional needs as of 2022.

**The problem with Thalinomics**

The cost of a thali has recently become a popular way of measuring the cost of meals, especially for the poor. In 2019-20, the Economic Survey devoted a chapter to 'Thalinomics', where they calculated the cost of "typical" thalis, i.e., those containing rice and wheat, a mix of pulses (vegetarian thali) or an animal-source protein (non-vegetarian thali), a mix of vegetables, mustard, coconut or groundnut oil, and spices and condiments. The quantities of the food included followed the 2011 Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN).

However, the thali does not adequately reflect nutritional recommendations. Its main components account for approximately 61% of the recommended daily requirement of various foods in grams and 65% of the NIN's 2021 caloric recommendations and exclude several nutrient-rich food groups, notably, green leafy vegetables, dairy, and nuts and seeds. The thali is also data-intensive: it uses quantities from a now dated 2011-12 survey of consumer expenditure by the National Sample Survey (the NSS-CES) to construct weights. While Thalinomics appears to have the advantage of representing "typical" meals, that distinction is artificial if not arbitrary, given the diversity in tastes and variation in the local availability of foods.

**An alternate method**

Instead, we make a case for the Indian government to track the cost of a healthy diet, or the CoHD, to serve as a routine measure of the cost of meeting nutritional requirements. The CoHD captures the minimum per person per day expenditure needed to meet the daily food group-wise energy recommendations prescribed by national FBDGs, assuming the entire diet is purchased from the market. Our case rests on three facts: one, that the CoHD calculation uses price data that is already available and does not rely on expensive household consumption surveys, as the cost of a thali does. Two, the computations are not complex and can be easily automated and understood. Three, perhaps most importantly, the cost of a thali does not capture the same thing as the CoHD.

To illustrate the last point, we assemble food prices for 328 urban centres and 68 commodities from administrative sources from January 2018 to March 2023. We combine these with the India Food Composition Tables to estimate the quantity of each commodity that would need to be consumed to meet the FBDGs. The costs of the cheapest items in each food group are added to arrive at the least cost of purchasing the recommended diet; the population weighted average across centres gives the national average CoHD.

We use the same price data to compute the cost of a thali. We follow the methodology in Thalinomics, with two deviations: first, we use the 2021 FBDGs as published by ICMR-NIN, same as for the CoHD calculations; second, to keep comparisons simple and do not account for cost of meal preparation.

When we analyse the CoHD and the costs of vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis, the costs of the two thalis move closely over the period of our data, with the vegetarian thali being about ₹10 cheaper than the non-vegetarian thali, on average. However, the CoHD does not move closely with the thali costs. Both before and after the COVID-19 national lockdown, the CoHD usually lay in between the vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis, but around the time of the crisis, the CoHD was substantially higher than both. Supply-side disruptions during the COVID-19 lockdowns raised the prices of perishables, which feature in the CoHD.

Our point is simple: these thalis, while intuitive, do not capture the true cost of nutritious diets and can even underestimate them, especially in times of crises. We show that alternate measures are possible, and indeed desirable, since they fully account for nutrition recommendations, do not rely on household consumption data that is expensive and time-consuming to collect, and can account more accurately for short-term fluctuations in the costs of perishable nutritious foods.

A case for the Indian government to track the cost of a healthy diet to serve as a routine measure of the cost of meeting nutritional requirements

# The laddu as a political weapon

## The timing of Naidu's allegations is significant

STATE OF PLAY

**A.D. Rangarajan**
rangarajan.ad@thehindu.co.in

A famous sweet has left a bitter taste in Andhra Pradesh. Over the last week, the ghee-filled Srivari laddu, the *prasadam* or religious offering made to the deity of Sri Venkateswara at Tirumala in Tirupati district, has been in the midst of a political storm.

It began with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu making a startling statement that "animal fat" had been used to make the *prasadam* during the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government's tenure. The Opposition, which was initially taken aback by the accusation, responded saying his statement was "irresponsible" and had been "made with malicious intent". Senior YSRCP leaders Y.V. Subba Reddy and Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, who had been appointed by the previous Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to serve as the Chairpersons of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) trust board, condemned Mr. Naidu's statement. They said they would swear in front of the deity to prove their innocence. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy accused Mr. Naidu of playing politics.

TTD executive officer J. Syamala Rao made public the lab report of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), which had found the ghee sample to contain high levels of fish oil, beef tallow, and lard. He said that the Tamil Nadu-based supplier would be blacklisted, and criminal proceedings would be initiated against the company if it failed to respond suitably to its show-cause notice.

Soon, political leaders across the country reacted to the issue. Hindu activists in Bhopal burnt Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy's effigy, holding him responsible for the act. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi posted on X saying there needs to be thorough examination of the issue. Union Minister for Health J.P. Nadda sought a report on the laddu and Union Food Minister Prahlad Joshi too called for a detailed probe. Going a step further, Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay called for a ban on employing people of other faiths in TTD.

Controversies are not new for the TTD. Ahead of the 2019 general elections, the YSRCP, which was then in the Opposition, attacked the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government saying an "invaluable pink diamond" had "gone missing" from the deity's treasury. The claim snowballed into a political and poll issue when a senior temple priest said that the Opposition's claims were correct. The TTD management responded by filing a defamation suit against the priest and a YSRCP leader. After the change of guard in 2019, the case was withdrawn and the pink diamond controversy ended with a whimper.

Between 2019 and 2024, too, the TTD was often in the news for the wrong reasons. In 2019, some claimed that there were proselytisation attempts being made on the hills. The police arrested three people for spreading fake news. The same year, a Jerusalem pilgrimage campaign advertisement printed on the back of Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus tickets issued for the Tirumala hill shrine sparked a row, with State units of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleging a "government-led conspiracy" to hurt the sentiment of Hindus. In 2020, TTD officials received a complaint that a subscriber in Guntur had received the TTD bulletin, 'Sapthagiri', along with propaganda material of an alien faith. Many of these incidents were used by the detractors of Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who is Christian, to label him "anti-Hindu".

This time, despite the lab report confirming the presence of ingredients such as lard, which many say have "hurt Hindu sentiments", the average devotee seems unfazed. This is the time of the auspicious 'Purattasi' Tamil month and devotees have accepted the revered Srivari laddu as a *maha prasadam* (great offering). Data show that the sale of laddus at Tirumala have shown no fall even after the controversy erupted.

Meanwhile the YSRCP, Congress, and the Left believe that the tankers containing the adulterated ghee were seized in mid-July and that the results of the tests had come out by the end of July. They have demanded to know why the issue was kept under wraps until September. They allege that Mr. Naidu has not been able to achieve much in the last 100 days and now wants to use this to divert attention from his shortcomings. They also believe that he is raking it up to so that the TDP and the BJP can together target Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy while whipping up Hindu sentiments.

# Professional Indian women work the most hours globally

## Young Indian women in professional jobs are working over 55 hours a week

DATA POINT

**Sambavi Parthasarathy**
**Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

The death of Anna Sebastian Perayil, a 26-year-old Chartered Accountant based in Pune, has led to intense discussions about the workload of professionals in India. According to a letter by Anna's mother, Anita Augustine, the young professional at Ernst & Young (EY) lost her life due to "work stress".

Ms. Augustine said in her letter to the Chairman of EY that Anna would be assigned "work at night with a deadline [the] next morning". She added that this was a "systemic issue and goes beyond managers and teams". According to her, the workload, the new environment, and the long hours took a toll on her daughter. She also alleged that no one from the office turned up at Anna's funeral.

Ms. Augustine's anguished letter went viral, eliciting a reply from the Chairman of EY India, Rajiv Memani, who "truly regretted" the fact that employees of the company were absent at Anna's funeral. "The well-being of our people is my top-most priority," he said.

The incident has put the spotlight on how the increasing workload in India especially impacts young women who work in male-dominated environments.

Data show that Indian women who have jobs similar to the one that Anna had work for the longest hours globally. In fact, the younger the professional, the more number of hours they work.

**Chart 1** shows the mean weekly hours that Indian women work across various job types in 2023. Indian women workers in information and communication jobs, which includes IT professionals and journalists, worked 56.5 hours every week in 2023, the most for any job type in India. If we consider a work week of five days, that amounts to more than 11 hours of work a day, or in the case of a six-day work week, it amounts to more than 9 hours of work a day. Women working in professional, scientific and technical activities in India do 53.2 hours a week. Anna belonged to this category. In comparison, a female teacher works 46 hours a week in India.

An age-wise breakdown in **Chart 2** shows that the hours increase if only younger workers are considered. For instance, Indian women IT/media workers who are aged 15-24 put in 57 hours every week. Indian women in professional, scientific and technical fields aged 15-24 put in 55 hours of work, the highest among all age groups.

The 56.5 hours and 53.2 hours of work that Indian women do every week in information and communication jobs and in professional, scientific and technical jobs, respectively, is the highest such share among similar jobs globally. **Chart 3** shows the mean hours of work done by women weekly for these two job types across nations. India and other BRICS countries are highlighted. The 56.5 hours done by Indian women in IT and media are the highest in the world. In Germany, for instance, women in IT and media work for 32 hours, and in Russia, for 40 hours.

Not only are Indian women working the most number of hours globally in such jobs, but they also work in offices dominated by men. Only 8.5% of the Indian workforce in professional scientific and technical jobs are women, and only 20% of the Indian workforce in information and communication jobs are women, as shown in **Chart 4.**

Such an imbalance in these two types of jobs was less pronounced in many other countries. **Chart 5** shows the percentage share of women in the two job types described above, across countries. Indian women's share of 8.5% in professional scientific and technical jobs is 15th from the bottom in a list of 145 countries.

### Overwhelmed at work

The charts are based on data sourced from the International Labour Organization's ILOSTAT Data Explorer

**Chart 1:** Mean weekly hours worked by Indian women in 2023 across job types

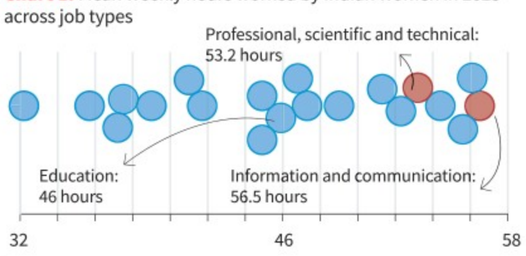



**Chart 2:** Mean weekly hours across age groups in 2023

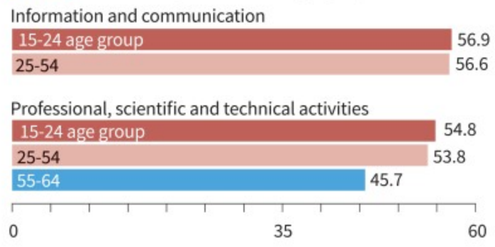
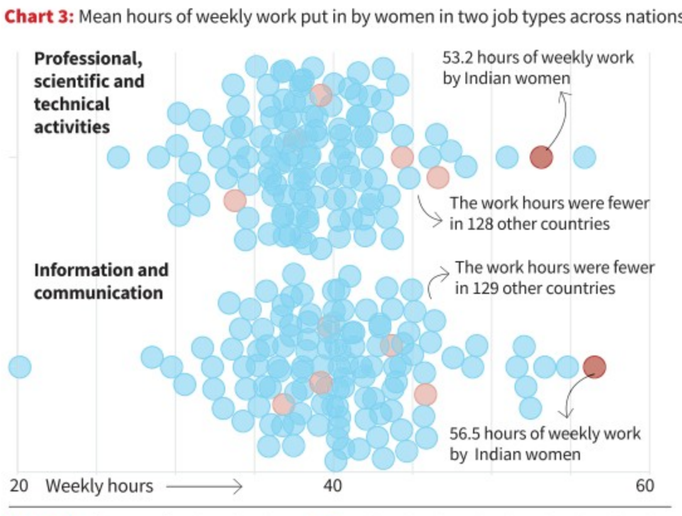



**Chart 3:** Mean hours of weekly work put in by women in two job types across nations


Professional, scientific and technical activities
53.2 hours of weekly work by Indian women
The work hours were fewer in 128 other countries
Information and communication
The work hours were fewer in 129 other countries
56.5 hours of weekly work by Indian women
20 Weekly hours
40
60

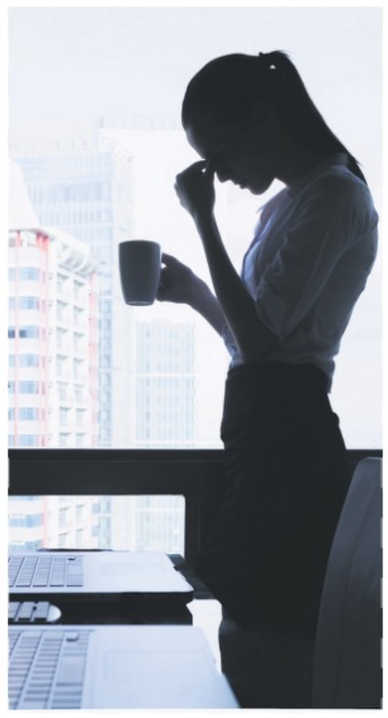


**Chart 4:** Share of women in the total work force across job types in India

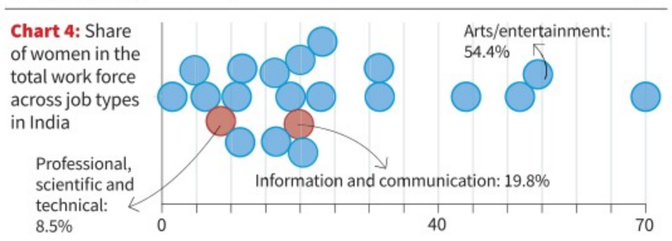



**Chart 5:** The percentage share of women in the two select job types, across countries

■ Professional, scientific and technical jobs include legal activities, accounting, tax consultancy, market research, advertising, bookkeeping, among others

■ Information and communication jobs include publishing, broadcasting, data processing, computer programming, news agencies, software publishing, among others

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 23, 1974

## Jayachamaraja Wadiyar dead

Bangalore, Sept. 23: The former Maharaja of Mysore, Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, passed away here this morning at his Bangalore Palace, after a brief illness. He was 55.

A former Governor of Karnataka (then Mysore), and Tamil Nadu (then Madras), Jayachamaraja Wadiyar was taken seriously till last night and the end came at 9-20 a.m. to-day.

Mr. Wadiyar had returned to the Bangalore Palace last Friday after a visit to the holy shrine at Sringeri. He had complained of restlessness on his way to Bangalore and his condition became critical last night. He died of broncho-pneumonia and cardiac failure. According to doctors who attended on him, he was conscious till the last moment and the end came peacefully.

The former ruler is survived by his wife Maharani Thirupura Sundarmanni, a son, three daughters and Princess Satyapremakumari Devi whom he had married in 1938. Only recently, one of his daughters passed away.

The Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, and his Cabinet colleagues were among the first to pay their respects to the former ruler. Mr. Urs also personally supervised the arrangements for taking the body to Mysore.

The cremation took place in the evening in Mysore.

The Government declared holiday to-day for all Government offices, educational and other institutions throughout the State. The flags on Vidhana Soudha and other Government offices were flown at half-mast. State mourning would be observed for seven days.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 23, 1924

## Rubber export restriction

London, Sept. 22: Claiming that the Rubber Export Restriction Scheme in Malaya and Ceylon amply justified itself the "Financial Times" says the persistent campaign to wreck restriction is beginning to be regarded with something more than mere suspicion. Certain large American consumers are known to be desirous of acquiring a substantial stake in rubber production in British Malaya, Ceylon and elsewhere. They are aware that if rubber can be brought well below a shilling large areas will fall inevitably into their hands of practically their own price.

# Modi celebrates his return to power at diaspora event

Sriram Lakshman
LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses for a selfie with the Indian diaspora on his arrival, in New York, on Sunday. ANI

Addressing thousands of his supporters in Long Island, New York, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday talked up his general election performance, highlighted the government's achievements in the past 10 years and the plans for the future, as he repeatedly praised the Indian diaspora.

In an election victory-like speech, Mr. Modi defended and celebrated the poll outcome in which the BJP's majority was significantly reduced. The Prime Minister rhetorically asked the crowd about the NDA getting elected for a third term, repeatedly, "*Kya hua hai?* (What happened?), *Abh ki baar?* (What next?)", as the crowd confirmed he had won.

The Prime Minister said he had very big ambitions for his third term and needed to move forward with three times the speed and strength.

He talked about freedom of expression in the recent elections being under scrutiny as he praised Indian democracy and diversity, its multiplicity of political parties and social media accounts.

The Prime Minister's remarks were made during a "community event" at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Long Island on the second day of his visit to the United States. These rallies, which have become key signature events on his foreign trips, are used to connect with the Indian diaspora who are influential in U.S. industry and, increasingly, in its politics.

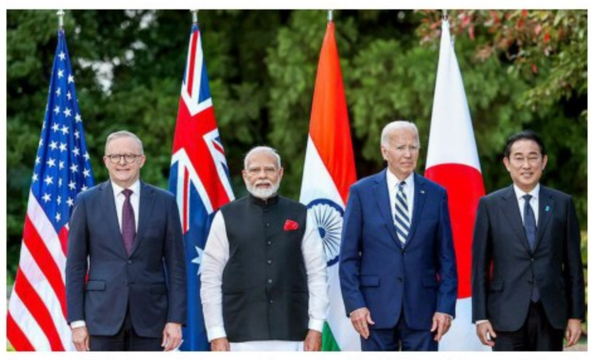
Mr. Modi praised the diaspora, calling the talent and skills found in it "unparalleled". "I have always understood the capabilities of the Indian diaspora," Mr. Modi said, calling Indians abroad ambassadors of the country.

He talked about the government's achievements since 2014, citing examples such as airport and metro systems, broadband services and poverty reduction. He highlighted India's digitisation and emphasised its environmental consciousness.

# Quad launches maritime safety, health initiatives

## Leaders condemn aggression in East and South China Sea and express alarm over war in Ukraine

Sriram Lakshman
WILMINGTON (DELAWARE)


(From left) Anthony Albanese, Narendra Modi, Joe Biden, and Fumio Kishida at the 'Cancer Moonshot' event in Delaware. ANI

Leaders of the Quad group of countries – Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida – met at their sixth summit-level meeting at Archmere Academy, Mr. Biden's former school in Claymont, Delaware, to announce a broad range of outcomes. These included the launch of a new coast guard exercise, a logistics network, expansion of maritime surveillance, and a project to combat cervical cancer.

In terms of positions, the Quad strongly condemned aggression in the East and South China Sea and expressed alarm over the war in Ukraine, noting that all four leaders had visited the country.

The 'Quad Cancer Moonshot' will involve contributions from all four countries to combat cervical cancer. India will commit $10 million towards screening for the disease. Vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India and Gavi will provide up to 40 million vaccines for the region, "subject to approvals". The countries announced the Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission in 2025 to improve interoperability and maritime safety. Future coast guard missions are planned for after 2025. A logistics network pilot project was also launched, which will involve Quad countries sharing airlift capacity to support disaster response.

**MAITRI workshop**

A Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI) to train Quad partners "to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behaviour" was also announced. India will host the first MAITRI workshop in 2025.

A maritime legal dialogue has been launched to support actions to uphold the rules-based order, the statement said.

Quad members condemned maritime aggression, with pointed references to situations involving China, which is currently embroiled in tensions with the Philippines, most recently over the latter's coast guard presence on the Sabina shoal, 150 km off its west coast. "We are seriously concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas," they said, as they expressed concern about the militarisation of disputed features and intimidation in the South China Sea.

The statement condemns the dangerous use of coast guard and maritime militia vessels and opposes the disruption of other countries' offshore resource exploitation activities. While there was no direct mention of Russia, presumably out of consideration for India, which shares a close relationship with Moscow, the statement had references that have been associated with a condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, such as Quad countries offering their "unwavering" support for the United Nations Charter. The countries expressed their "deepest concern" for the war in Ukraine and its consequences.

"Each of us has visited Ukraine since the war began and seen this first-hand; we reiterate the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in line with international law, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity," the statement says. It also notes the impact the war has had on food and energy security, especially for developing countries.

The Quad fellowship, to promote STEM education, has been expanded to include 50 scholarships worth $5,00,000 for students from the region to study at government-funded technical institutions in India.

**Cultural connect:** The 'Delhi-Delaware' silver train model gifted by Narendra Modi to U.S. President Joe Biden. ANI

# Modi gifts an antique silver hand-engraved train model to Biden

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday gifted U.S. President Joe Biden an antique silver hand-engraved train model, a rare and extraordinary piece masterfully crafted by artisans from Maharashtra and showcasing the pinnacle of Indian metalworking artistry.

The vintage piece involves intricate filigree work and is made of 92.5% silver, the officials said. The creation is a tribute to the steam locomotive era, with "artistic brilliance merging with historical significance".

Signifying the robust linkages between India and the U.S., the model has been customised with the inscription of 'Delhi-Delaware' on the sides of the main carriage, and 'Indian Railways' on the sides of the engine in English and Hindi based on the standard format used on passenger trains in India, the officials said.

"This work not only highlights the artisan's exceptional skill but also serves as a glowing testimony to the long history of Indian Railways and its global influences," they said.

Mr. Modi chose a pashmina shawl in a papier mache box as a gift for First Lady Jill Biden, they added.

Pashmina shawls are considered the apogee of J&K's rich and fine legacy of hand-crafting. Contemporary designers are incorporating modern sensibilities, experimenting with bolder colours, playful patterns, and even fusion styles. "This ensures the legacy of pashmina remains relevant, captivating hearts across generations and cultures," the officials said.

They traditionally come packed in papier mache boxes, which are renowned for their exquisite beauty and craftsmanship.

## From Page One

# Left leader Dissanayake is Sri Lanka's President

Sunday's poll outcome is a big win for Mr. Dissanayake, with his vote share growing well over tenfold from the 3.16% he secured in 2019 when he challenged Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Mr. Premadasa. It marks the first time Sri Lanka's presidency will be held by a party with no links to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the United National Party (UNP), or their offshoots that have dominated the country's politics for over seven decades.

University of Jaffna academic Mahendran Thiruvarangan described the poll outcome as a "positive" one. "The NPP is a political formation that represents some of the core demands of the *Aragayala* [people's struggle of 2022]. Their victory is reason for optimism," he told *The Hindu*. The NPP, which currently has three MPs in the 225-member House, will soon face a general election.

"We stand ready to rewrite Sri Lankan history," Mr. Dissanayake said in a message on X on Sunday evening. "The unity of Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, and all Sri Lankans is the bedrock of this new beginning. The New Renaissance we seek will rise from this shared strength and vision," said Mr. Dissanayake, who is due to be sworn in on Monday.

# 'Council is looking at tax rates for rationalisation'

"But, it cannot continue in the very spirit of how it was brought in. It was introduced to make sure that States don't have any apprehensions about their revenue resources coming down to a drastically low level and that they cannot sustain themselves, after the implementation of the GST regime," the Minister said.

Ms. Sitharaman also pointed out that the GST compensation scheme was brought in at a fairly high rate. "No State was growing anywhere near 14%. Everybody who analyses the economy will know it. For instance, Tamil Nadu's growth rate was around 6.5%, before 2017. The State would have earned around ₹4.23 lakh crore. Whereas, the State has earned ₹5.23 lakh crore because of the compensation scheme and post that because of the GST. You [the State] are better off today. The wild allegations that come about the GST system will have to be countered with patience. But when it comes from a State government, whose Finance Minister is sitting in the [GST] Council, randomly because it politically suits them, I leave it as such. But it has no logic in it."

She said the Constitution gives the Union government every right to levy cesses. "Though the money collected through cesses is not shared with the States directly through devolution, it goes for building roads, schools, ports and hospitals. It is perfectly constitutionally legitimate for the Centre to collect cess. It doesn't go through the devolution which was designed by the Finance Commission, a constitutional body," she added.

# After Modi's visit, U.S. to return 297 antiquities

Press Trust of India
WILMINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed deep appreciation for U.S. President Joe Biden for promising the return of 297 invaluable antiquities to India. Mr. Modi is in the U.S. for a three-day visit.

"Deepening cultural connect and strengthening the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural properties. I am extremely grateful to President Biden and the U.S. Government for ensuring the return of 297 invaluable antiquities to India," Prime Minister Modi posted on X.

In July, India and the U.S. signed their first agreement to prevent illegal trafficking of cultural property and return of antiquarian objects to their place of origin.

"The U.S. side has facilitated the return of 297 stolen or trafficked antiquities during the visit of PM @narendramodi to U.S.," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

# Doval stayed back from PM's U.S. visit to deal with security situation in J&K polls: officials

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The officials dismissed speculation that Ajit Doval dropped out of the visit due to a summons issued by a New York court. FILE PHOTO

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval stayed back in India to deal with the security situation arising from the ongoing Jammu and Kashmir election and other "domestic issues", officials said. They dismissed speculation that Mr. Doval dropped out of the visit owing to a summons issued by a New York court, even as the Khalistan issue and allegations from Sikh groups against the government appeared to loom over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day U.S. visit.

The summons, in response to a civil suit filed by Khalistani activist and Sikhs for Justice founder Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, has led to questions over whether the U.S. government was sending a "sharp message" to New Delhi, diplomats said.

The summons was followed by the introduction of a newly drafted Act against "transnational Repression" that names India in the U.S. Senate, and a meeting between White House and U.S. National Security Council officials and Sikh activists from groups that have campaigned against the Modi government.

On Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had referred to the suit filed by Mr. Pannun as "completely unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations" motivated by an "anti-national and subversive" element.

The government continues a "high-level investigation" over the allegations levelled by the U.S. Department of Justice over an alleged assassination plot against Mr. Pannun, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had however said.

When asked, government sources pointed to previous U.S. court summons issued in cases filed by Mr. Pannun, against then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, and former Minister Kamal Nath over the 1984 Sikh riots cases, and summons against Mr. Modi during his previous visits to the U.S. over the 2002 Gujarat anti-Muslim violence. All the summons were "squashed", they said as the U.S. State Department invoked immunity for serving officials and dignitaries.

The government has not commented thus far on the introduction of a bipartisan Bill called the Transnational Repression Reporting Act in the U.S. Congress on September 19 by Democrat Congressman Adam Schiff that says 'transnational repression' or the targeting of diaspora members was on "the rise", particularly from "India, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and China".

The text of the Act specifically details the preliminary investigation results of the Pannun case that accused Indian intelligence of the plot which is yet to be proven in court, and calls for a mandatory briefing by the government on such cases.

**'Dual message'**

The MEA also did not respond to requests for a comment on the meeting between White House officials and members of Sikh activist groups, the American Sikh Caucus Committee, the Sikh Coalition, and the Sikh American Legal Defence and Education Fund, all of which have been critical of the Modi government and were consulted for the Bill on 'transnational repression'.

According to one former diplomat who had served in the U.S., who asked not to be named, the White House move just two days before Mr. Modi landed, sent a "dual message", to the Indian government that this is a matter of concern and a number of U.S. Congresspersons have demanded actions to "hold Indian officials involved in the plot accountable". It was also to send a clear message that there will be consequences for such behaviour.

"It is difficult to understand what U.S. hopes to gain from such a provocation," wrote former Foreign Secretary and Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University Kanwal Sibal about the White House meeting, adding that the "U.S. is encouraging those who are working against India's sovereignty and territorial integrity", calling for a "serious pushback" from India if the White House did not clarify its position.

# Biden hails Modi's Ukraine trip, lauds India's global role

Prress Trust of India
WILMINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden has conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the U.S. supports initiatives to reform global institutions to reflect India's important voice, including permanent membership in the UN Security Council, said a joint factsheet on the wide-ranging talks the two leaders had on Saturday.

At a media briefing on Sunday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, while answering a question on defusing the Ukraine crisis, said "very important" conversations were under way with multiple people on all sides of the conflict. Though the Modi-Biden talks focused on bilateral ties, the two leaders touched upon global challenges, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in the Indo-Pacific.

The factsheet said President Biden expressed his "immense appreciation" for India's leading role on the world stage, particularly Mr. Modi's leadership in the G-20 and the Global South and his commitment to strengthening the Quad to ensure a free, open, and

**The leaders praised combined efforts to facilitate sustainable semiconductor supply chains**

prosperous Indo-Pacific.

"President Biden commended Prime Minister Modi for his historic visits to Poland and Ukraine, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in decades, and for his message of peace and ongoing humanitarian support for Ukraine including its energy sector, and on the importance of international law, including the UN charter," it said.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden reaffirmed their support for the freedom of navigation and the protection of commerce, including critical maritime routes in West Asia where India will assume co-lead in 2025 of the Combined Task Force 150 to work with Combined Maritime Forces to secure sea lanes in the Arabian Sea, the document said.

They deliberated on ways to further bolster India-U.S. cooperation in the areas of semiconductors, clean energy, and defence.

"President Biden and Prime Minister Modi hailed a watershed arrangement to establish a new semiconductor fabrication plant focused on advanced sensing, communication, and power electronics for national security, next-generation telecommunications, and green energy applications," the factsheet said.

"The fab, which will be established with the objective of manufacturing infrared, gallium nitride, and silicon carbide semiconductors, will be enabled by support from the India Semiconductor Mission as well as a strategic technology partnership between Bharat Semi, 3rdiTech, and the U.S. Space Force," it said. It said the leaders praised combined efforts to facilitate resilient, secure, and sustainable semiconductor supply chains including through GlobalFoundries' (GF) creation of the GF Kolkata Power Center.

They welcomed steps to build resilient supply chains for the U.S., Indian, and international automotive markets, including Ford Motor Company's submission of a Letter of Intent to utilise its Chennai plant to manufacture for export to global markets.

# ‘Economic policies unaffected by coalition politics’

Union Finance Minister says the issues that took priority before the push and pull of coalition politics are the same ones in focus now; she says no State gets ignored in the Union Budget and any other narratives by the Opposition are arguments for political convenience; she also discusses the expenditure on healthcare and the future of investments in the field of artificial intelligence

INTERVIEW

***Nirmala Sitharaman***

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that coalition politics has not affected the planning for the Union Budget or any other programmes of the Centre. In an interaction with senior journalists of The Hindu Group of Publications at its head office in Chennai, she articulated her views on various topics including allocation of funds for healthcare, allegations of conflict of interest against the SEBI Chairperson and the future of investments in artificial intelligence.

**In the past 10 years, you [the BJP government at the Centre] had the clarity on plans by being a majority government. Now the coalition politics era has started. Does the push and pull of coalition politics impact the process and even the vision for what lies ahead in terms of economic policy?**

No. It hasn’t affected the way in which I have planned for the Budget. It hasn’t affected any of the programmes. For instance, when I was preparing the vote on account, issues before me at that time continue to be the issues before me now. So I don’t see any special addition or deletion because of the coalition politics.

**But Andhra Pradesh and Bihar attracted some attention in the Budget...**

Andhra Pradesh and Bihar were also like many other States included for considerations which were made explicit in the Budget speech itself. And this again is a careless and convenient argument to immediately think that if I have not mentioned a State in the Budget, I would ignore them without giving them any money.

This was the narrative with which the Opposition stood up in Parliament. These are political convenience arguments, but no State gets ignored. Of course, on consideration of floods and building the capital, I had to mention these two States.

DINESH KRISHNAN

**There have been quite a few allegations against the SEBI chief. But two of them seem quite material. One is that she holds a stake in a private consultancy firm which has been receiving fees from various companies which SEBI regulates. The second is she has been earning income from ESOPs from ICICI Bank, though she is the SEBI chief and decides on matters relating to companies. Now she has given a clarification in her personal capacity, saying that she recused herself and she was not really in conflict of interest. Isn’t it necessary that these facts be independently verified by somebody? And given that the SEBI chief is an appointee of the Union government, doesn’t it actually fall to the Centre?**

I think what is being missed out in this discussion is the facts. Take the facts on board and then allege or defend or talk about what has got to be done. I think there’s just a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, but facts are not coming into discussion at all.

**But why is there no transparency on this issue? Why can’t they put out all the details?**

I thought everything was transparent in this. Everything is absolutely available in the public domain.

**We made a small start with ₹10,000 crore allocated to boost the artificial intelligence infrastructure. But actually just four big tech companies are spending $200 billion a year. Simultaneously over a period of three years they are going to spend $500 billion in capex, most of it for setting up hyperscalers and data centres. We can’t invest that much, neither can our country. Do you think that with a long-term perspective there is a case to incentivise them to set up hyperscalers in India by tax incentives or land subsidies?**

It hasn’t come like that to me. But what has actually happened is, by the way in which the policy got formulated for AI, the domain experts, today, are willing to come to India. They are willing to work with Indian companies. The movement is rapid. Many of our universities, including IITs, IIMs and some private universities, are also taking a lot of initiatives. Funds are not constrained to only that ₹10,000 crore. There are also corpuses, which have been created by the government for science and related matters, which are now being used to raise more money from the market, and projects are getting funded. It hasn’t come to the extent of tax concessions yet, but there is activity.

**Regarding budgetary allocations for healthcare. Historically, we have never gone beyond 2.2%. Do you foresee a future wherein we will be able to allocate 6% to 8% of the GDP, which is recommended?**

There is never a question of not wanting to spend on health. Again, it is a subject between the States and the Centre. When we take this number [percentage of spending] normally, we tend to take the number which the Central government puts out saying this much is being spent as a percentage of the government expenditure, not as on the GDP. When norms are fixed or when suggestions and recommendations come, they equate it to percentage of the GDP. But what the Central government takes as an approach is the percentage of the total expenditure that comes up in the Budget. What I certainly can’t get or should make an effort to get, is how much States are spending on their own in building health infrastructure. This put together may still not reach 6% of the GDP. But this calculation on the GDP is also something which we’ll have to understand if government expenditure is well within my domain, and of that, if I am able to give a bit more for health, it is ideal. I try to improve that number each time. Our priority has been in building hospitals and making sure it runs on its own. Between 2014 and today, barring AIIMS, nearly 157 hospitals have come up.

**India is one among the 44 countries that has not conducted the population census, yet. Why is there an undue delay?**

There was no undue delay. Because of COVID-19, we were not able to conduct it in 2020-21. In 2022, we were coming up with so many other systems which depended on school teachers, and many other government staff. In 2023, we were already into the election phase and, in 2024, we had elections. Soon it will happen.

*(Full interview is at newsth.live/Nirmala)*

# Amit Shah, Rajnath push Pakistan to centre stage of BJP’s poll campaign in J&K

**Peerzada Ashiq**
JAMMU

Pushing issues with Pakistan to the centre stage of the BJP’s campaign in Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday railed against the neighbouring country and used it to attack the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Congress ahead of the second phase of Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the 61% voter turnout in the first phase, Mr. Singh said people of the Kashmir Valley had “raised the prestige of democracy”.

“Pakistan has started feeling pain in its stomach after seeing the flag of democracy fly high in Jammu and Kashmir,” Mr. Singh, who addressed poll rallies in Jammu, said.

Pointing out Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif’s recent statement on NC-Congress manifesto and Article 370, Mr. Singh said Pakistan wanted exactly what the NC-Congress wanted.

**Canvassing for votes:** Union Minister Amit Shah during a rally in support of BJP candidate Ravinder Raina, in Rajouri on Sunday. ANI

“The question arises whether the two parties are working as Pakistan’s proxy. These people raised questions about Pulwama [attack] and sought proof of surgical strike and air strike. All these things clearly indicated that efforts are being made to run Pakistan’s agenda. We will not allow Pakistan’s evil agenda to work,” the Defence Minister said.

Mr. Singh promised restoration of Statehood “if voted to power in Jammu and Kashmir”.

Addressing poll rallies in the Pir Panjal valley and Jammu plains, Mr. Shah also upped the ante against Pakistan in his speeches. “They [regional parties] say that we should talk to Pakistan. We will never do that until Pakistan stops terrorism. If we have to talk, then we will talk to our youths here,” he said.

He said it was important for the BJP to come to power in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the BJP government would “neither release militants nor stone-pelters”, while referring to manifestos of the NC and the PDP.

# Kejriwal poses five questions to RSS chief, targets BJP at Delhi meeting

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

In an attempt to turn the tables on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been targeting him over corruption allegations, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday sought to drive a wedge between the BJP and the RSS by posing five questions to the latter’s chief, Mohan Bhagwat.

Addressing the ‘*Janata Ki Adalat*’ public meeting at Jantar Mantar here, he said, “BJP national chief J.P. Nadda said during the Lok Sabha election that the ‘BJP no longer needs the RSS’. The RSS is like the mother of the BJP. Has the ‘son’ grown up so much that he has started challenging his ‘mother’? The ‘son’ whom you nurtured and made PM – today, that son is turning around and showing his defiance towards the motherly organisation, the RSS.”

Mr. Kejriwal also asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s retirement plans post 75 years of age, and questioned the BJP’s politics of “breaking” Opposition parties through the CBI and the ED. He also said that as soon as Navaratri starts, he will leave the official Chief Minister residence and live with one of the party workers.

**Lashing out:** AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, along with Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and other leaders, during a public meeting at Jantar Mantar on Sunday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

**On Modi’s ‘retirement’**

“It was you who made the rule that anyone who crosses the age of 75, would retire. Following this rule, prominent leaders like Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, B.C. Khanduri, Kalraj Mishra, and Shanta Kumar were retired. Now, Amit Shah is saying that this rule will not apply to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But I want to ask Mohan Bhagwat whether he agrees that the rule which applied to Lal Krishna Advani should not apply to Narendra Modi,” Mr. Kejriwal said.

“Mr. Modi has included the most corrupt leaders across the country in his party. The leaders whom Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah themselves called the most corrupt just a few days ago were included in the BJP shortly after. Does Mohan Bhagwat agree with this type of politics?” he asked.

The AAP supremo alleged that Mr. Modi invoked the PMLA, the “toughest law” in the country on the AAP leaders, but the court also knew that it was a “fake case” and gave them bail.

“Advocates said that the case can still run for seven to eight years. Then I decided that I will go to people’s court and people will say if I’m honest or corrupt” he said.

# Uday Bhanu Chib is new Indian Youth Cong. chief

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday announced Uday Bhanu Chib as the new president of its youth wing, the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), replacing B.V. Srinivas

For over five years, Mr. Srinivas was at the helm of the IYC, and the highlight of his tenure was the relief work done by the Youth Congress volunteers during the COVID pandemic between 2020 and 2022.

In a statement, the Congress thanked Mr. Srinivas for his services.

Mr. Chib was serving as the general secretary of the IYC, and is a former president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress. The new Indian Youth Congress chief is the son of Congress leader Hari Singh Chib.

On Friday, he had posted a picture of himself with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on X, and wrote, “A memorable meet with my leader Rahul Gandhi ji! Your struggle and perseverance for social justice is an inspiration to all of us.”

# Bihar govt. halts land survey for three months

**The Hindu Bureau**
PATNA

The Bihar government on Saturday halted the land survey in the State for three months citing problems faced by people in procuring documents.

It has been mired by complaints of corruption.

“We have found that people are facing problems in collecting land documents, so the department has decided to give them three months more to get the required documents. A formal letter on the decision will be issued after two days and then the survey would resume,” said Dilip Kumar Jaiswal, Revenue and Land Reforms Department Minister.

# Confusion over alert on ‘entry of 900 Kuki militants’

**Vijaita Singh**
NEW DELHI

The Army, in a post on X on Sunday, requested Manipur security adviser Kuldiep Singh to provide details of the intelligence input that 900 trained Kuki militants from Myanmar had entered Manipur, but it later deleted the post.

The post by the Spear Corps of the Army said, “These inputs have very serious security implications and the office of Security Adviser has been requested to share the details so that appropriate necessary action can be taken at the earliest.”

A defence source said the inputs were yet to be shared with the Army.

Mr. Singh, at a press conference in Imphal on September 20, had said the government was aware of intelligence inputs regarding the entry of “900 Kuki militants” and “unless it is proven wrong, it is 100% correct”.

Security personnel on Saturday display arms recovered by the Army and Manipur Police in many districts of Manipur. PTI

The input was first shared by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh’s office with the Director-General of Police and the security adviser last week, a copy of the leaked letter showed.

The September 16 internal note said, “Reports have been received that over 900 Kuki militants, newly trained in use of drone-based bombs, projectiles, missiles and jungle warfare have entered Manipur from Myanmar.

They are reportedly grouped in units of 30 members each and currently scattered in the periphery, and expected to launch multiple coordinated attacks on Meitei villages around 28 September, 2024. Police Department is requested to take all necessary measures in this regard.” A Manipur government source said the security adviser did not say that the input shared by the Chief Minister’s office had been verified. “... In the wake of the input, alerts were sent to all district police chiefs and also the Assam Rifles and the Army,” the source said.

The source added that the press conference was convened as the inputs had spread panic among the people in the Valley districts and it was pertinent to provide accurate information to the people.

“A narrative was being built that 900 Kuki militants have entered the State, which is not correct. The idea was to assure the people that the security agencies had taken cognisance of the intelligence inputs and steps were being taken on the ground to thwart any such movement if at all it happens. The security adviser’s statement was misinterpreted to state that it was 100% correct that militants have entered from Myanmar,” the source said. The 1,643-km India-Myanmar border runs along the States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km).

The Assam Rifles (AR), which is under the operational control of the Army, is the primary border guarding force deployed along Myanmar.

There are around 60,000 security personnel deployed in Manipur currently which includes the Army, AR, Manipur Police, and Central Armed Police Forces.

# Satya Pal Malik calls on Uddhav, extends support for MVA

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik met Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday and extended his support to the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance for the coming Maharashtra Assembly election.

Known for being a critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Malik said he would campaign for the MVA to wipe out the BJP from the State.

Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, he said, “The BJP will not just receive a major blow, but the party will be wiped out in the State elections. Uddhav Thackeray will play the most important role in this election. I have extended my full support to the MVA. I will also campaign for it. Maharashtra Assembly elections will significantly influence the political landscape of the country, and the poll results will serve as the last nail in the BJP’s coffin.”

Mr. Malik said he suggested the MVA to stay united. “As per my information, the BJP is losing and MVA will win. I also asked them [MVA] to make some adjustments but stay together in the Assembly polls. We had a cursory discussion about the INDIA bloc. However, I assured them that the MVA will form the government in Maharashtra.”

## INBRIEF

### 'Assam records 86% drop in rhino poaching since 2016'

Kaziranga and other protected habitats of the one-horned rhinoceros in Assam recorded an 86% drop in poaching of the herbivore since 2016, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. In a statement marking the celebration of World Rhino Day on Sunday, the Chief Minister attributed the turnaround – poachers killed 190 rhinos between 2000 and 2021 – to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "commitment to promoting and preserving" an animal that has been "synonymous to the identity" of Assam. The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has 233 anti-poaching camps, each manned by three to five personnel.

### Railways' 10 detonators go off on track in Madhya Pradesh

A special Army train was halted for about 30 minutes in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district after 10 detonators used by the Indian Railways went off on the track, officials said on Sunday. The detonators are used to alert loco pilots of approaching trains to possible risks on the track, a senior Railways official said. According to officials, the incident took place on Wednesday around 2 p.m. on the Delhi-Mumbai route. "We carried out an inspection after the sound was heard. Since it was a train of critical nature, officials took extra caution before resuming the journey," Chief Public Relations Officer, Central Railway, Swapnil Nila said.

# U.P., Rajasthan, M.P. top in cases of atrocities on Dalits: report

**Of the 51,656 cases registered under the law for SCs in 2022, Uttar Pradesh accounts for 23.78%, followed by Rajasthan, 16.75%, and Madhya Pradesh, 14.97%. Similarly, of the 9,735 cases filed for STs, Madhya Pradesh reports the highest 30.61%**

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Nearly 97.7% of all cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes in 2022 were reported from 13 States, with Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh recording the highest number of such crimes, according to a new government report.

According to the latest report under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, the majority of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes (STs) were also concentrated in 13 states, which reported 98.91% of all cases in 2022.

Of the 51,656 cases registered under the law for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in 2022, Uttar Pradesh accounted for 23.78% of the total cases with 12,287, followed by Rajasthan with 8,651 (16.75%) and Madhya Pradesh with 7,732 (14.97%). Other States with a significant number of cases of atrocities against SCs were Bihar with 6,799 (13.16%), Odisha with 3,576 (6.93%), and Maharashtra with 2,706 (5.24%). These six States accounted for nearly 81% of the cases.

"Thirteen states, cumulatively accounting for 97.7% (51,656) of the total cases (52,866) relating to offences of atrocities against members of SCs, registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, in conjunction with the Indian Penal Code, during the year 2022," the report said.

Similarly, the majority of cases of atrocities against STs were concentrated in 13 states. Of the 9,735 cases registered under the law for STs, Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number at 2,979 (30.61%), the report said.

Rajasthan had the second highest number of cases at 2,498 (25.66%) while Odisha recorded 773 (7.94%). Other States with a significant number of cases included Maharashtra with 691 (7.10%) and Andhra Pradesh with 499 (5.13%). The data also provided insight into the status of investigations and chargesheeting under the Act.

Among the SC-related cases, 60.38% led to chargesheets being filed while 14.78% were concluded with final reports due to reasons such as false claims or lack of evidence. By the end of 2022, investigation was pending in 17,166 cases.

For ST-related cases, 63.32% resulted in charge sheets being filed while 14.71% ended with final reports. At the end of the period under review, 2,702 cases involving atrocities against STs were still under investigation.

One of the most concerning trends highlighted in the report is the declining conviction rate for cases under the Act. In 2022, the conviction rate dropped to 32.4% from 39.2% in 2020. Moreover, of 498 districts in 14 States, only 194 had established special courts to expedite trials in these cases.

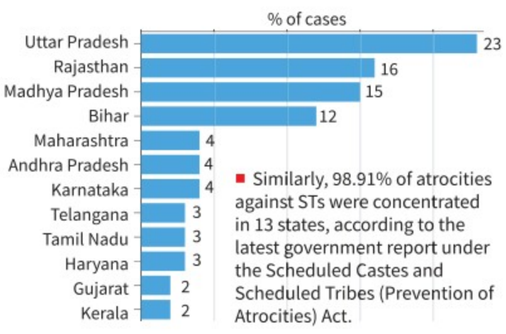
The report also identified specific districts particularly prone to atrocities with only 10 States and Union Territories declaring such districts. It emphasised the need for targeted interventions in these districts to curb the caste-based violence and ensure stronger protection for vulnerable communities.

SC/ST protection cells had been set up in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, NCT of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Puducherry, according to the report.

Special police stations for registration of complaints of offences against SCs and STs have been set up by Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

**Atrocities on Dalits, tribal people**

The chart shows the States accounting for 97.7% of total cases of atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes during the year 2022.


% of cases
Uttar Pradesh 23
Rajasthan 16
Madhya Pradesh 15
Bihar 12
Maharashtra 4
Andhra Pradesh 4
Karnataka 4
Telangana 3
Tamil Nadu 3
Haryana 3
Gujarat 2
Kerala 2
Similarly, 98.91% of atrocities against STs were concentrated in 13 states, according to the latest government report under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Source: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

### Internet services restored in Jharkhand

**Amit Bhelari**
PATNA

Internet services were restored in Jharkhand after the High Court pulled up the Hemant Soren government for suspending them to conduct the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission-Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) examination.

Principal Secretary of the Jharkhand Home Department Vandana Dadel issued the order that Internet services would be suspended in the entire State from 8 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. on September 21 and 22 to ensure the CGL examination remained fair and free from malpractice.

Following the order, the Jharkhand State Bar Council chairperson Rajendra Krishna wrote a letter to the Acting Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court, Sujit Narayan Prasad.

The letter was converted into a public interest litigation plea.

However, the High Court did not prohibit the government from suspending Internet services on September 22. A Bench on Sunday ordered the government to restore Internet services with immediate effect, which was done by 2 p.m.

# Only 16% of land reclaimed under Swachh project to rid urban areas of legacy waste

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**
NEW DELHI

Launched with much fanfare, the legacy waste management project of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 has been a slow starter, with only 470 out of 2,424 dumpsites completely remediated and an area of 16% reclaimed, three years since the mission was rolled out.

Legacy waste dumpsites are places that contain solid waste that has been collected and stored for years in an unscientific and uncontrolled manner.

With almost no installed facility in India for handling solid waste, the Municipal Corporations, Councils and Nagar Panchayats have traditionally opted to create man-made garbage hills.

**Dumpsites of legacy waste store solid waste, collected and stored for years in an unscientific manner**

While the Swachh Bharat Mission had been launched on October 2, 2014, its second phase (2.0) was launched on October 1, 2021 for a period of five years, up to October 1, 2026, with a vision of achieving "Garbage-Free Status" for all cities through 100% source segregation, door-to-door collection, and scientific management of all fractions of waste, including safe disposal in scientific landfills.

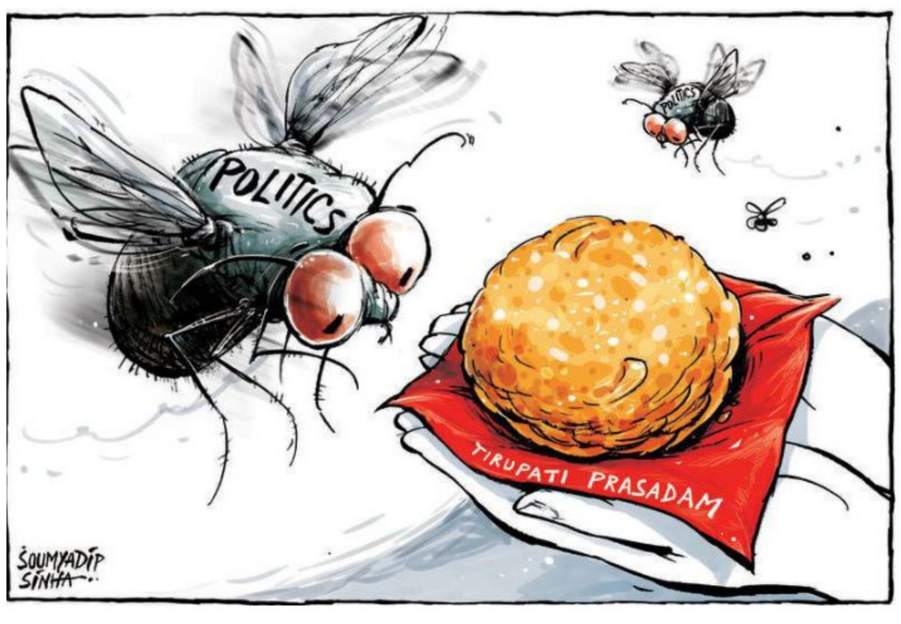
It aimed at remediation of all legacy dumpsites and converting them into green zones. Action plans amounting to ₹3,226 crore of Central Share (CS) assistance on remediation of legacy waste dumpsites have been approved so far.

According to the Mission's website, out of the 2,424 dumpsites having more than 1,000 tonnes of legacy waste identified across the country, remediation has been completed in 470, and approved and ongoing in 1,224, while 730 have been left untouched.

With regard to the area covered, of the total 28,460.33 acres, 16% or 4,552.34 acres have been reclaimed and 84% or 23,908 acres are yet to be reclaimed.

Tamil Nadu has the maximum area reclaimed from dumpsites at 837 acres (42%). Gujarat is the best performing State with 75% area (698 of 938 acres) of landfills reclaimed.

## *On the draw*




### Netflix under scrutiny for violations

**Reuters**
NEW DELHI

India is investigating business practices of U.S. streaming giant Netflix's local operations, including allegations of visa violations and racial discrimination, according to a government email sent to a former executive.

The details of the investigation were included in a July 20 email, reviewed by Reuters, which was written by a Union Home Ministry official to Netflix's former director of business and legal affairs for India, Nandini Mehta, who left the company in 2020.

A Netflix spokesperson said that the company was "unaware of any investigation by the Government of India."

# VHP wants Hindu temples to be free of government control

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Following the Tirupati laddu prasadam controversy, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) will be holding a meeting of its apex decision-making body in Tirupati on Monday to press the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to bring in measures to "free Hindu temples" from government control, which has been a long-term goal of the organisation.

The VHP's international general secretary, Bajrang Bagra, said the meeting would be attended by religious leaders of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and that challenges faced by the Hindu society and solutions thereof would be discussed.

"Apart from the ongoing issues related to the Hindu society, the meeting will also see the discussion on adulteration of animal fat in the *prasadam* of the most revered Tirupati Balaji temple, which is deeply troubling the entire Hindu society," Mr. Bagra said.

The VHP will chalk out a plan on the role of religious leaders in the situation arising out of the Tirupati temple *prasadam* row.

The organisation's international president, Alok Kumar, told *The Hindu* that the organisation had always been against boards that are "mostly headed by non-believers" formed by governments to manage temples.

"Ever since the British rule in India, temples have been under the administration of governments. But even the British had to repel the laws controlling temples in the form of the Religious Endowments Act, 1863," Mr. Kumar said.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14287

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY

**Across**

**1** Exuberance resulting from martinis - pal is tipsy (6,7)
**8** Love edible root with starter of asparagus in Japanese city (5)
**9** Cracked algebra with extremes of ease? That's nice (9)
**11** Fail to make progress in a date with woman in fancy retreat (5,5)
**12** Doormat in bungalow, impressive (4)
**14** Note about the digestive tract (7)
**16** Passionately precocious, cuddling girl on base (7)
**17** Threatens rogues snatching object (7)
**19** See way to change husband? Nonsense! (7)
**21** Abandon date with guy wanting sex essentially (4)
**22** Trouble in nightclub - couple of males overdose on ecstasy (10)
**25** Coming from Spain with pure dope and cocaine concealed (9)
**26** Like a perfectly pitched baseball game in hot ground (2-3)
**27** Husband of reigning queen is cheating, caught by inspector right away (6,7)

**Down**

**2** Most wonderful article about tackling English exam (7)
**3** Turning point! Extremely dissolute Republican's arrested (10)
**4** Upset about America installing nuclear plant (5)
**5** Go on wild spree, drinking endlessly (9)
**6** Craving, wanting good grass (4)
**7** A little upset by boys in band becoming fatter (7)
**8** How a violinist is involved in swindling (2,3,6)
**10** Warning that's pretty tame, essentially toothless perhaps (5,6)
**13** Deals with foolish teenagers stealing money (10)
**15** Nice scene about ignorance (9)
**18** Spy ensnares one working for inventor (7)
**20** More trouble on earth (7)
**23** Conservative party clinging to extremely retrogressive set of beliefs (5)
**24** American actor started going topless (4)

## SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | | 4 | 9 | | | 8 | | |
| | 1 | | 8 | | | | | 2 |
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| | 8 | | 5 | 7 | | 9 | | |
| 5 | | | | | 2 | | 8 | |
| | | 2 | | | 9 | 5 | | 3 |

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6289 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

**Solution to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | D | O | G | S | B | R | E | A | K | F | A | S | T | |
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| E | | S | | E | | S | | E | | P | | U | | L |
| L | A | M | I | N | A | T | I | N | G | | E | C | R | U |
| E | | A | | T | | | | A | | G | | E | | O |
| B | A | N | K | I | N | G | | E | C | U | A | D | O | R |
| R | | | | F | | R | | U | | N | | | | E |
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| | | E | | A | | C | | O | | E | | N | | |
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**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 8 |

## FAITH

### Epitome of Siva bhakti

Many of the servitors lived only to serve the Lord Siva. Any insult to the Lord, disruption of events or disrespect to articles used in prayer and puja was enough to rouse the wrath of the Nayanmars who did not hesitate to mete out punishment forthwith, regardless of whether it was a human or a beast, said P. Swaminathan. Sivakaamiyaar, a devotee who resided in Karur, was in the habit of gathering flowers to offer in the worship of the deity at Aanilai. Also residing in the same town was Eripathanar, a Nayanmar who wielded a battle axe and used if anything untoward happened to Sivanadiyars.

During one Navaratri, Sivakaamiyar was proceeding to the temple with floral offering when the king's crown elephant went berserk, snatched the basket, smashed the flowers underfoot. On hearing about the desecration, Eripathanar chased the elephant, chopped off its trunk and felled the mahouts. The king treated it as an act of war. However, upon learning of his elephant's wrathful deed, the king proclaimed that the offence against a devotee of 'the Lord of the beautiful eyes' required that he himself be punished too. Astounded by the king's devotion, Eripathanar felt it was wrong to punish such a devotee and was about to cut his neck, when a celestial voice proclaimed that the entire proceedings was divine play by the Lord.

**POTSDAM**

## Far-right party AfD looking at new victory in east German state polls

REUTERS

Germany's far-right AfD was hoping to win a tight race on Sunday against Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats in a regional election in the State of Brandenburg. The party aims to replicate the strong gains it made in the east three weeks ago, when it won the polls in Thuringia and came a close second in Saxony. AFP

**BIRMINGHAM**

## U.K. PM Starmer rules out austerity as Labour Party conference opens

AP

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer promised to protect public services and ruled out austerity measures as Labour's annual conference kicked off, its first in 15 years as a governing party. The four-day gathering in Liverpool comes three months after Labour secured a runaway general election victory over the Conservatives. AFP

**KHARKIV**

## Russian strike on residential area in Ukraine's Kharkiv injures 21

AP

A Russian late-night strike on a residential neighbourhood of the northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv wounded 21 people. The strike came late on Saturday, hours after Russian attacks killed five persons — including two children — in central Ukraine. Kharkiv has seen relentless attacks this year. AFP

**PESHAWAR**

## Policeman killed following attack on foreign delegation's car in Pak.

AP

A roadside blast at Malam Jabba caused by an improvised explosive device, targeting a convoy of foreign diplomats, killed a policeman on Sunday. The group was travelling to a tourist area in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan and is a base for militant groups, including the Pakistani Taliban. AP

# Premadasa gets highest share of Tamil vote

The Opposition leader obtains more votes than 'common Tamil candidate' P. Ariyanethiran; Premadasa, who secured over 40% of the votes across Tamil-majority areas in the island's north, east, and central hill country, garners more Tamil votes than election winner Anura Kumara Dissanayake

**Meera Srinivasan**
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa, who lost to leftist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Saturday's presidential election, garnered the highest share of the Tamil minority's vote, data published by the Election Commission of Sri Lanka showed.

Mr. Premadasa secured over 40% of the votes across Tamil-majority areas in the island's north, east, and central hill country. Significantly, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya leader obtained more votes than P. Ariyanethiran, a "common Tamil candidate" fielded by some political actors and civil society groups.

### Topsy Turvy

Unlike the entire island, where Anura Kumara Dissanayake had the highest vote share (VS), the story was different in the Tamil-majority districts (Jaffna, Vanni, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Nuwara Eliya in total)

| Candidate | Overall VS | VS in Tamil areas |
|---|---|---|
| Anura Kumara Dissanayake | 42.31% | 14.95% |
| Sajith Premadasa | 32.76% | 41.83% |
| Ranil Wickremesinghe | 17.27% | 25.13% |
| Ariyanethiran Pakkiyaselvam | 1.70% | 12.91% |

Weeks ahead of the polls, prominent Tamil party, the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK), pledged support for Mr. Premadasa. Following the party's announcement, some of its own members endorsed and canvassed for Mr. Ariyanethiran, reflecting sharp divisions within the Tamil polity and the main party.

While backers of the Tamil candidate argued that they had lost faith in the southern leadership and sought to "give a message" to the international community, others opposed the move on the grounds that it would weaken the bargaining power of Tamils.

Posting on social media platform 'X' following Mr. Dissanayake's victory, ITAK member and Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran said: "Congratulations @anuradisanayake for an impressive win, achieved without recourse to racial or religious chauvinism. Our thanks to the Tamil People in the North and East who voted for @sajithpremadasa rejecting others on #ITAK advice and showed the difference in the electoral map."

On the other hand, fellow ITAK legislator Sivagnanam Shritharan said the Tamil candidate, too, had garnered a "considerable vote share" in districts across the north and east. "The common Tamil candidate has highlighted the weight of the Tamil vote, and those who opposed the move or others who called for a boycott of the polls will face the consequences of their actions very soon," he told *The Hindu*.

Further, commenting on Mr. Dissanayake's victory, he said: "We are eager to see if Mr. Dissanayake is able to engage with the Tamils, too, with honesty and sincerity," he said, referring to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna's [JVP, Mr. Dissanayake's party] history of opposing Tamil self-determination and the Indo-Lanka Accord that sought to address Tamil concerns.

University of Jaffna academic Mahendran Thiruvarangan said he saw the JVP's victory as a "positive outcome" of a crucial national election for change.

However, he contended that the party must introspect on its past more openly, including its role in "fuelling Sinhala nationalism" and supporting the war, "so minorities do not view them with suspicion". "They are also yet to make an explicit and strong commitment to power devolution which will be crucial to win the trust of the Tamil minority," he said.

**Damage check:** Miners and police officers at the site of the coal mine where methane leak sparked an explosion in Tabas in Iran. AP

# 51 killed, 20 injured after gas leak leads to blast at Iran mine

**Agence France-Presse**
TEHRAN

A blast caused by a gas leak at an Iranian coal mine has killed at least 51 people, state media said on Sunday, in one of the country's deadliest work accidents in years.

"The number of dead workers increased to 51" in the explosion at the Tabas mine in eastern Iran, the official IRNA news agency reported, revising an earlier death toll of 30. It added that 20 other people were injured.

The explosion occurred at around 9:00 p.m. (2300 IST) on Saturday, when around 70 workers were present at the site in South Khorasan province, IRNA said.

According to the report, a leak of methane gas led to the blast in two blocks of the mine, which is owned by private Iranian firm Madanjoo.

An apparent "gas condensation" in the mine is believed to be the cause of the explosion.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian ordered a probe into the deadly incident. "Unfortunately, we learned that an accident occurred in one of the coal mines in Tabas and a number of our compatriots lost their lives. I offer my condolences to their respected families," Mr. Pezeshkian said.

The authorities have announced three days of public mourning in the eastern province after the deadly blast.

Iran's Red Crescent said search and rescue operations were underway in the mine, where some workers remained trapped.

According to IRNA, they were about 250 metres below the surface, cut off from rescuers by chambers that had filled up with concentrated methane gas. "Gas accumulation in the mine" has made the search operations difficult, local prosecutor Ali Nesaei said.

## India envoy meets BNP leadership in Bangladesh

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

In a significant act of political outreach, the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, and his colleagues met Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, general secretary of the principal Opposition, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in Dhaka.

This is the first meeting between the BNP leadership and the Indian diplomats stationed in Bangladesh after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5.

**'Strengthening ties'**

"India wants to bring a positive outlook to the relation with the BNP. They are also seeking to strengthen BNP's relation with political parties in India. They conveyed that they would like to firm up relations with Bangladesh, especially in the context of the big political change that has taken place here," said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, briefing the media after the meeting that took place at the BNP's headquarters in the Gulshan neighbourhood of Dhaka. He shared that the two sides discussed the security situation.

The Indian envoy had met several members of the interim government earlier this month indicating that India was interested in broadening dialogue with both the interim government and the political parties that are likely to play a prominent role when election takes place in Bangladesh.

Sunday's meeting is being interpreted as a significant development as it marks the beginning of official-level Indian contact with BNP leadership.

## Hezbollah declares 'open-ended battle of reckoning' with Israel

**Increased hostilities:** Israeli officials work at a site of a rocket attack in northern Israel's Kiryat Bialik on Sunday. AP

**Associated Press**
NAHARIYA

Hezbollah launched more than 100 rockets early on Sunday across northern Israel, with some landing near the city of Haifa, as Israel launched hundreds of strikes on Lebanon. A Hezbollah leader declared an "open-ended battle of reckoning" was underway as both sides appeared to be spiraling closer toward all-out war.

The overnight rocket barrage was in response to Israeli attacks in Lebanon that have killed dozens, including a veteran Hezbollah commander, and an unprecedented attack targeting the group's communications devices. Air raid sirens across northern Israel sent hundreds of thousands of people scrambling into shelters.

One rocket struck near a residential building in Kiryat Bialik, a city near Haifa, wounding at least three persons and setting buildings and cars on fire.

**Three Lebanese killed**

Lebanon's Health Ministry said that three persons were killed and another four wounded in Israeli strikes near the border, without saying whether they were civilians or combatants.

Hezbollah's deputy leader Naim Kassem said his group is now in an "open-ended battle of reckoning" with Israel, threatening more displacement for people in Israel's north.

"We admit that we are pained. We are humans. But as we are pained – you will also be pained," Kassem said at the funeral of top Hezbollah commander Ibrahim Akil. He said a barrage of rockets fired by the group deep into Israel early on Sunday was only the beginning, vowing to destroy Israel's economy.

**Israel's response**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would take whatever action was necessary to restore security in the north and allow people to return to their homes.

"No country can accept the wanton rocketing of its cities. We can't accept it either," he said.

The Israeli military said it carried out strikes across southern Lebanon over the past 24 hours, hitting about 400 militant sites, including rocket launchers. Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman, said those strikes had thwarted an even larger attack.

## Israel orders 45-day closure of Al Jazeera in occupied West Bank

**Agence France-Presse**
RAMALLAH

**Four Al Jazeera journalists have been killed and its office has been bombed since Gaza war began**

Armed Israeli forces raided the office of global news channel Al Jazeera in the occupied West Bank on Sunday and issued a 45-day closure order.

It was the latest salvo in a long-running feud between the Arab broadcaster and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government which has worsened during the war in Gaza.

Since the war began on October 7 when Hamas Palestinian militants attacked Israel, Al Jazeera has aired continuous on-the-ground reporting on the effects of Israel's military campaign.

Four Al Jazeera journalists have been killed since the war in Gaza began, and the network's office in the territory has been bombed.

Israel's military said on Sunday the Ramallah office was closed because it was "used to incite terror" and "support terrorist activities", and because Al Jazeera's broadcasts endangered Israel's security.

**'Criminal act'**

"The channel's offices have been sealed and its equipment has been confiscated," a military statement said.

Al Jazeera called the Israeli raid "a criminal act" and an attack on press freedom.

MUHS
MAHARASHTRA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES,
VANI ROAD, MHASRUL, NASHIK-422 004

Advt. No. 13/2024

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**Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor,** Above posts are to be filled for courses conducted at University Regional Centres & Headquarter of MUHS Nashik.

Application in prescribed form should reach the University office on or before 14/10/2024. For more details please visit to the University website www.muhs.ac.in

Date: 23/09/2024
Place: Nashik

Sd/-
Registrar
MUHS, Nashik

Government of Tamilnadu
DIRECTORATE OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
File No: 20885/2024/TCP3 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 23.09.2024

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of the Work | Preparation of GIS Based Master Plan for Tamil Nadu under AMRUT 2.0 sub-scheme – Package 2 |
| EMD | INR 5,00,000/- |
| Tender Documents available website and start date for submission of tender : | www.tntenders.gov.in @ 10hrs (IST) on 25-09-2024 |
| Last date and time for receipt of online bids | 10-10-2024 @ 14.00 hrs. IST |
| Bid Opening Date | 10-10-2024 @ 18.00 hrs. IST |
| Name and Address of the office Inviting Tender | The Director, Town and Country Planning Department, E&C Market Road, CMDA Complex,3rd Floor, Koyambedu, Chennai – 600107 |

Further details can be seen on the website www.tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/3820/TENDER/2024
Director of Town and Country Planning

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004
e-mail id : se_sicbam@yahoo.com
e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 03 / 2024-25

1. Type of Work : System Improvement Work.
2. Total No. of Works : 01 (One) No.
3. Amount put to Tender : Rs.236.35 Lakh
4. Period of Completion : 08 (Eight) Calendar months

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh) | Availability & Submission of Bid On-line |
|---|---|---|---|
| Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur | ACE, RBB, (BEID)-03/2024-25 | 236.35 | From 24.09.2024, 10.00 AM to 07.10.2024, 5.00 PM |

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 08.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
A-312: Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur
OIPR-32411/11/0005/2425

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE
Lady Willington College Campus, Kamarajar Saalai, Chennai 600 005.
e- TENDER NOTICE
Roc.No. 12700/ WW-1(1) / 2024 Date: 20.09.2024

Tenders are invited from the Manufacturers of gold coins and jewellery/ Dealers in gold coins who are engaged in the business of Gold Jewellery / Gold Coins, its import and export, towards the supply of 8,000 numbers (Eight Thousand only) of 22 carat purity Gold Coins (each eight grams), to be issued to the beneficiaries under the four Marriage Assistance Schemes implemented by the Department of Social Welfare, Tamil Nadu, from 23.09.2024 to 22.10.2024 upto 3.00 p.m. The Tenders will be opened on 22.10.2024 at 04.00 p.m. at the Commissionerate of Social Welfare, Chennai-5, by the Tender Scrutiny Committee in the presence of the Commissioner of Social Welfare. The Tender document can be downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in at free of cost from 23.09.2024 to 22.10.2024 upto 1.00 p.m. An EMD of Rs. 46,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs only) shall be submitted through online gate payment only.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 08.10.2024 at 11.30 a.m. at the above address.

All other conditions are specified in the tender document.

DIPR/3813/TENDER/2024
Commissioner of Social Welfare

# India crowned King and Queen of the 64 squares

The dominant men's team signs off with a flourish by beating Slovenia, while the women scintillate with a superb performance against Azerbaijan in the final round to take the honours in Budapest

**Magnificent Ten:** The team of Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Arjun, Vidit, and Harikrishna played superbly to claim the Open crown, while the women's squad comprising of Harika, Vaishali, Divya, Vantika, and Tania rose to the occassion to claim the top prize. FIDE

CHESS OLYMPIAD

Sports Bureau

The Indian men and women finished off their dream run in Budapest in stunning fashion by winning gold at the Chess Olympiad on Sunday.

It was a first for India in either section. The best performance previously was the bronze the men and the women had won in the 2022 Chennai Olympiad.

### Showing its class

In the team championship that matters most in international chess, India showed its class by winning the final-round matches in both the open and women's sections extremely convincingly.

The men defeated Slovenia 3.5-0.5, while the women beat Azerbaijan by an identical margin.

The men's gold was hardly in doubt after their win against the star-studded United States in the 10th round.

Now only China had only any hopes of stopping India, but it would have taken a miracle.

There was always going to be little chance of that, given the kind of form the young Indian team had been in.

The second-seeded India was too good for Slovenia, seeded 26th.

### Three fine wins

The magnificent young Indian trio of D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi – which has taken the chess world by storm – won on the top three boards, against Vladimir Fedoseev, Anton Demchenko and Jan Subelj. On the fourth board Vidit Gujrathi, who has also had an excellent tournament, drew with Matej Sebenik.

India finished with 21 points, just one short of the maximum a team could get. Four points separated India and the second-placed United States.

The competition was a lot closer in the women's section, and India needed to perform well on the final day if it had to take the gold.

The Indian women did that, as like men, they won three games and drew one.

There were wins for D. Harika, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal, against Gunay Mammadzada, Govhar Beydullayeva and Khanim Balajayeva, respectively. R. Vaishali drew with Ulviyya Fataliyeva.

Tania Sachdev and P. Harikrishna, who played on the reserve board in the women's and Open sections respectively, also served India well in the Hungarian capital. There was more good news for India. D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal won individual gold too.

**The standings: Open:** 1. India 21 points; 2-6. United States, Uzbekistan, China, Serbia and Armenia 17; 7-10. Germany, Azerbaijan, Slovenia and Spain 16.

**Women:** 1. India 19, 2. Kazakhstan 18; 3-6. United States, Spain, Armenia and Georgia 17; 7-10. China, Ukraine, Poland and Bulgaria 16.

### The winning gambit

Congrats to Team India for winning the last round as well! Sensational Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi, but also congrats to Vidit on an impressive result. Great captaincy by Srinath. Congrats to the women's team too. Great result by the whole team and captain Kunte and a special mention to Divya Deshmukh and Vantika for their performances.
**VISWANATHAN ANAND**

This is India's first-ever triumph in the prestigious event. Our chess heroes have made the country proud, showcasing their brilliance and hard work on the global stage
**SPORTS MINISTER MANSUKH MANDAVIYA**

Wrapping up the Olympiad recaps and nothing but praise for both of India's teams dominating the event. Vishytheking's legacy is secured
**GM HIKARU NAKAMURA**

# September 22, 2024 — the day India ruled the world

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**

**Golden show:** Divya was one of the standout performers. FIDE

Remember June 25, 1983, London?

Remember August 7, 2021, Tokyo?

Remember December 24, 2000, Tehran?

Remember May 15, 2022, Bangkok?

India's first cricket World Cup triumph, the first athletics gold at the Olympics through Neeraj Chopra, the first World chess championship title through Viswanathan Anand, and the first Thomas Cup victory will be etched in memory forever. Add to those magical dates September 22, 2024 – the day India dominated the 64 squares on the global stage the way it never did before.

India's men and women won the gold at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest on Sunday. Around 190 countries took part in the most prestigious team championship in chess. Think of an event like the football World Cup or the Davis Cup in tennis. The Chess Olympiad is that big.

But India's twin triumph should hardly come as a surprise, though. It wasn't like Kapil Dev's men winning the World Cup.

At Budapest, the men were seeded second and the women first. Still, you have to win the gold, taking the best teams on, over 11 rounds.

The competition was going to be tougher for the men, but they crushed the field. They won 10 of their matches and drew the other.

They finished with 21 points while the runner-up United States could manage only 17. And the American team contained some of the strongest players in the history of the game.

India's victory against the USA in the penultimate round was vital. The match against Slovenia in the final round was almost a formality.

India fielded D. Gukesh on the top board, where he would be meeting the best players of every team. And he was brilliant. Just as he was at the last Olympiad, two years ago.

India's decision to field Arjun Erigaisi on the third board, too, paid off. He just blew away the opposition, especially in the first half of the tournament, as he won six games in a row.

R. Praggnanandhaa played on the second board, and he may not have had as great a tournament as his team would have wanted him to, but that didn't matter. Vidit Gujrathi's consistency contributed to the cause.

India's gold in the women's is also an extraordinary feat. For, the women went to Budapest without its best player, Koneru Humpy. The World No. 6 does not play as many tournaments as she used to. She will be relieved that her younger compatriots rose to the occasion and made up for her absence.

The two youngest among them, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal, were terrific. They ensured that India scored well on the two lower boards, especially after the team suffered some setbacks on the first and second boards. D. Harika and R. Vaishali had some forgettable games, but they also scored some crucial points for India.

Tania Sachdev and P. Harikrishna were the reserve players for India. They too contributed.

This is already a great year for Indian chess. It could get even greater. Gukesh is playing the World chess championship match against China's Ding Liren, starting on November 23 in Singapore.

It looks like Indian sport will get another date to remember.

## Dominant performance

From also-rans in earlier years to contenders in the recent past to champions in 2024, India has traversed a long journey in the Open and women's sections of the Chess Olympiads. Data sourced from chess-results.com, olimpbase.com and collated by **Srinivasan Ramani, Nitika Francis**

D. Gukesh

Arjun Erigaisi

Divya Deshmukh

Vantika Agarwal

*Individual gold medallists*

### India's journey at the 45th Olympiad

India's record in the Open section featured a loss in only one game (in the match against the U.S.). The women's team's victories were also mostly decisive

| Rounds | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **OPEN** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent | Morocco | Iceland | Hungary | Serbia | Azerbaijan | Hungary | China | Iran | Uzbekistan | U.S. | Slovenia |
| **Score** | **4-0** | **4-0** | **3.5-0.5** | **3.5-0.5** | **3-1** | **3-1** | **2.5-0.5** | **3.5-0.5** | **2-2** | **2.5-1.5** | **3.5-0.5** |
| **WOMEN** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent | Jamaica | Czech Republic | Switzerland | France | Kazakhstan | Armenia | Georgia | Poland | U.S. | China | Azerbaijan |
| **Score** | **3.5-0.5** | **3.5-0.5** | **3-1** | **3.5-0.5** | **2.5-1.5** | **2.5-1.5** | **3-1** | **1.5-2.5** | **2-2** | **2.5-1.5** | **3.5-0.5** |

### Honours List

Table shows top three players (& country) on each board ordered on performance ELO Rating (ELO(p)) in Budapest.

| | OPEN | | | WOMEN | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Position** | **Name (Country)** | **Points/Games** | **ELO(p)*** | **Name (Country)** | **Points/Games** | **ELO(p)*** |
| **BOARD 1** | | | | | | |
| 1 | **D Gukesh (IND)** | 9/10 | 3056 | Zhu Jiner (CHN) | 7/9 | 2597 |
| 2 | Nodirbek Abdusattarov (UZB) | 9/11 | 2884 | Sarasadat K (ESP) | 7.5/9 | 2560 |
| 3 | Magnus Carlsen (NOR) | 6/8 | 2810 | Nana Dzagnidze (GEO) | 7/10 | 2541 |
| **BOARD 2** | | | | | | |
| 1 | Nguyen Thai Dai Van (CZR) | 9/10 | 2783 | Carissa Yip (USA) | 10/11 | 2634 |
| 2 | Toni Lazov (NMC) | 7.5/8 | 2763 | Elisabeth Paehtz (GER) | 7.5/10 | 2477 |
| 3 | Ediz Gurel (TUR) | 9/11 | 2755 | Song Yuxin (CHN) | 7/9 | 2467 |
| **BOARD 3** | | | | | | |
| 1 | **Arjun Erigaisi (IND)** | 10/11 | 2968 | **Divya Deshmukh (IND)** | 9.5/11 | 2608 |
| 2 | Yu Yangyi (CHN) | 7.5/10 | 2802 | Sabrina Gutierrez (ESP) | 9.5/11 | 2505 |
| 3 | Le Tuan Minh (VIE) | 9/11 | 2795 | Elina Danielian (ARM) | 7.5/10 | 2495 |
| **BOARD 4** | | | | | | |
| 1 | Shamsuddin Vokhidov (UZB) | 8/10 | 2779 | **Vantika Agarwal (IND)** | 7.5/9 | 2558 |
| 2 | Levon Aronian (ARM) | 8/10 | 2773 | Alice Lee (USA) | 8/10 | 2471 |
| 3 | Alan Pichot (ESP) | 7.5/9 | 2756 | Anna Sargsyan (ARM) | 8/10 | 2446 |
| **BOARD 5** | | | | | | |
| 1 | Frederik Svane (GER) | 8/9 | 2791 | Dana Kochavi (ISR) | 8/8 | 2676 |
| 2 | Benjamin Gledura (HUN) | 7/10 | 2692 | Nodira N (UZB) | 7/8 | 2460 |
| 3 | Velimir Ivic (SRB) | 7/10 | 2648 | Lu Miaoyi (CHN) | 7.5/9 | 2410 |

### History at the Olympiad

This is the first Gold Medal victory for India in both the Open and women's sections. A look at India's historical record at the Olympiads

| Year | Open | Women |
|---|---|---|
| 1980# | 35 | 25 |
| 1982 | 41 | 9 |
| 1984 | 33 | 16 |
| 1986 | 25 | 19 |
| 1988 | 19 | 14 |
| 1990 | 10 | 32 |
| 1992 | 22 | 24 |
| 1994 | 55 | 34 |
| 1996 | 59 | 25 |
| 1998 | 33 | 15 |
| 2000 | 8 | 13 |
| 2002 | 29 | 19 |
| 2004 | 6 | 9 |
| 2006 | 30 | 12 |
| 2008 | 16 | 15 |
| 2010 | 18 | 17 |
| 2012 | 35 | 4 |
| 2014 | 3 | 10 |
| 2016 | 4 | 5 |
| 2018 | 6 | 8 |
| 2022** | 3 | 3 |
| 2024 | 1 | 1 |

*** Fielded 3 teams. Open section: Team 1 finished 4th, Team 2, 3rd, Team 3, 31st. Women's section: Team 1, 2 and 3 finished 3, 8 & 17 respectively.*

*# India's earlier finishes in Open section - 1956 (27th), '60 (24), '62 (28), '64 (37). India finished 15th in 1978 when it competed only among women*

INCHING TO THE TOP

## Maestro Ashwin's remarkable all-round show

R. RAGU

For the fourth time in his career, R. Ashwin has scored a century and taken a five-wicket haul in a Test match. With this achievement, he is one behind former England all-rounder Ian Botham, who has done it five times. Incidentally, the last time Ashwin achieved this rare feat was also in Chennai, against England in 2021.

SECOND BEST

## Ashwin matches Warne's tally of Test five-wicket hauls

R. RAGU

In his 101st Test, Ashwin scalped his 37th five-wicket haul and equalled former Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne's record. The India off-spinner went past New Zealand great Richard Hadlee. Ashwin is now joint-second on the all-time list, only behind Sri Lankan legend Muttiah Muralitharan, who has done it 67 times.

CHEPAUK SPECIALIST

## Ashwin pulls level with compatriot Kumble

FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

R. Ashwin equalled former India captain Anil Kumble for the most number of five-fors at the MAC Stadium. The 38-year-old completed his fifth five-for in as many matches at his home ground. Kumble, though, leads the charts for most wickets at Chepauk with 48 scalps, while Ashwin equalled E.A.S. Prasanna's tally of 36 at the venue.

WINNING COMBO

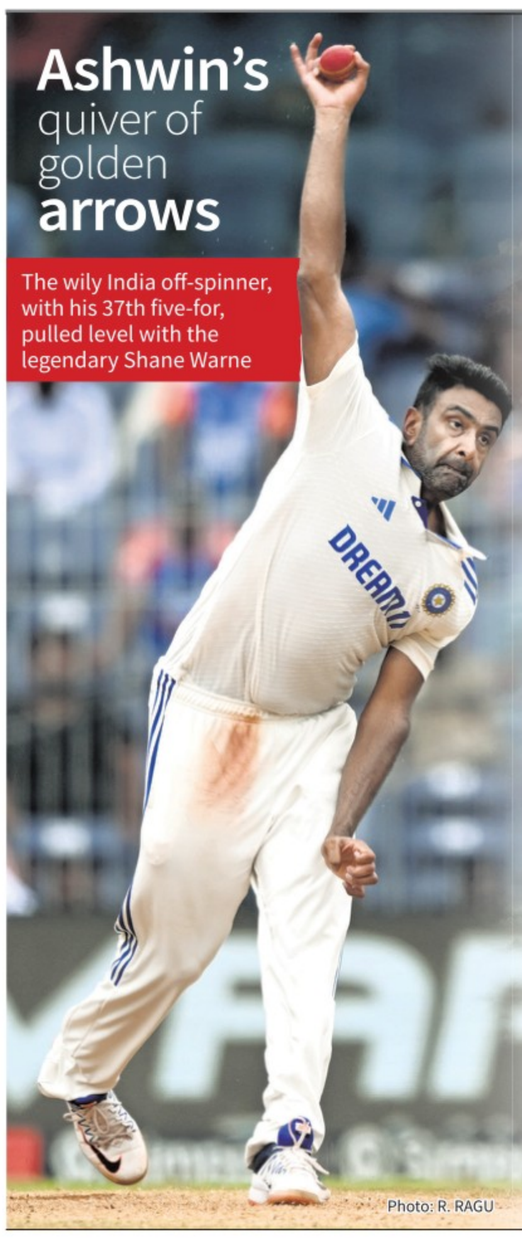
## India retains team for second Test against Bangladesh in Kanpur

R. RAGU

India has retained the same squad for the second Test in Kanpur. **The squad:** Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), R. Ashwin, R. Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, and Yash Dayal.

# Ashwin's sleight of hand spells doom for Bangladesh

The off-spinner's six for 88 ensures Rohit's men silence the Tigers in no time on day four; the visitor's fight, led by skipper Najmul's 82, ends at 234 as the host registers a thumping 280-run win


Ashwin's quiver of golden arrows
The wily India off-spinner, with his 37th five-for, pulled level with the legendary Shane Warne
Photo: R. RAGU

- **6/47** vs West Indies, Delhi, **2011**
- **5/156** vs West Indies, Mumbai, **2011**
- **6/31** vs New Zealand, Hyderabad, **2012**
- **6/54** vs New Zealand, Hyderabad, **2012**
- **5/69** vs New Zealand, Bengaluru, **2012**
- **7/103** vs Australia, Chennai, **2013**
- **5/95** vs Australia, Chennai, **2013**
- **5/63** vs Australia, Hyderabad, **2013**
- **5/57** vs Australia, Delhi, **2013**
- **5/87** vs Bangladesh, Fatullah, **2015**
- **6/46** vs Sri Lanka, Galle, **2015**
- **5/42** vs Sri Lanka, Colombo, **2015**
- **5/51** vs South Africa, Mohali, **2015**
- **5/32** vs South Africa, Nagpur, **2015**
- **7/66** vs South Africa, Nagpur, **2015**
- **5/61** vs South Africa, Delhi, **2015**
- **7/83** vs West Indies, North Sound, **2016**
- **5/52** vs West Indies, Kingston, **2016**
- **6/132** vs New Zealand, Kanpur, **2016**
- **6/81** vs New Zealand, Indore, **2016**
- **7/59** vs New Zealand, Indore, **2016**
- **5/67** vs England, Visakhapatnam, **2016**
- **6/112** vs England, Mumbai, **2016**
- **6/55** vs England, Mumbai, **2016**
- **6/41** vs Australia, Bengaluru, **2017**
- **5/69** vs Sri Lanka, Colombo, **2017**
- **7/145** vs South Africa, Visakhapatnam, **2019**
- **6/61** vs England, Chennai, **2021**
- **5/43** vs England, Chennai, **2021**
- **5/47** vs England, Ahmedabad, **2021**
- **5/37** vs Australia, Nagpur, **2023**
- **6/91** vs Australia, Ahmedabad, **2023**
- **5/60** vs West Indies, Roseau, **2023**
- **7/71** vs West Indies, Roseau, **2023**
- **5/51** vs England, Ranchi, **2024**
- **5/77** vs England, Dharamshala, **2024**
- **6/88** vs Bangladesh, Chennai, **2024**

BANGLADESH IN INDIA

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**
CHENNAI

With the indulgent dexterity of tucking into a Sunday morning brunch, India dismantled Bangladesh in the first Test here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. On the fourth day, the lone point of interest was centred around how long the visitor would resist a seemingly inevitable defeat.

That question was answered well before the crockery was set for lunch as India needed a mere 24.5 overs to pocket the remaining six wickets. The target of 515 remained unsurmountable and Najmul Hossain Shanto's men were bowled out for 234 in the second innings while the host won by 280 runs.

The penultimate day with its foregone conclusion still drew in the crowds as 15,365 fans trooped into the venue. Resuming at the overnight 158 for four, Bangladesh remained unscathed till the first drinks break as Najmul and Shakib Al Hasan hung in. The latter drove Mohammed Siraj for four and the seamer kept testing Najmul with angled deliveries and sharp words.

**Miracle worker:** Ashwin celebrated his home Test with match-defining performances. R. RAGU

Soon it proved to be the proverbial lull before the storm, and one initiated by the slow art of annihilation practised by R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. At one point, Shakib charged at Jadeja, missed the line and Rishabh Pant failed to effect a stumping. On 17 then, Shakib did not last long as Ashwin drew an edge that Yashasvi Jaiswal caught well in the close-in cordon.

Placed at 194 for five, Bangladesh added 40 runs while the wickets kept tumbling. Litton Das feathered Jadeja straight to an exultant Rohit Sharma at first slip. Mehidy Hasan Miraz gave the charge to Ashwin and found Jadeja waiting in the deep. And from the other end, skipper Najmul watched in dismay.

Having played some lovely strokes besides remaining patient, the batter (82) then tried to loft one off Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah scrambled to pouch a good catch. The tail wilted immediately with some wild swipes and Man-of-the-Match Ashwin bagged a six-for.

These wickets in tandem with his remarkable first innings ton, made this Chepauk encounter yet another special outing at home for the local boy. A few waves to the stands were Ashwin's way of expressing gratitude in what may be his last Test in his backyard.

India leads the two-match series at 1-0 with the second and final Test commencing at Kanpur on September 27. Bangladesh came in with a 2-0 Test series triumph in Pakistan but taking on India in its backyard is never easy. Over the last few decades, many pedigreed squads have learnt it the hard way and now it was time for the eastern neighbour to imbibe some tough lessons.

SCOREBOARD

**INDIA — 1st innings**
376 in 91.2 overs
**BANGLADESH — 1st innings**
149 in 47.1 overs
**INDIA — 2nd innings**
287 for four decl. in 64 overs
**BANGLADESH — 2nd innings**
Zakir Hasan c Jaiswal b Bumrah 33 *(47b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Shadman Islam c Gill b Ashwin 35 *(68b, 3x4)*, Najmul Hossain Shanto c Bumrah b Jadeja 82 *(127b, 8x4, 3x6)*, Mominul Haque b Ashwin 13 *(24b, 3x4)*, Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahul b Ashwin 13 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Shakib Al Hasan c Jaiswal b Ashwin 25 *(56b, 3x4)*, Litton Das c Rohit b Jadeja 1 *(10b)*, Mehidy Hasan Miraz c Jadeja b Ashwin 8 *(10b, 1x4)*, Taskin Ahmed c Siraj b Ashwin 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Hasan Mahmud b Jadeja 7 *(14b, 1x4)*, Nahid Rana (not out) 0 *(2b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-7): 12; Total (in 62.1 overs): 234.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-62 (Zakir, 16.2 overs), 2-86 (Shadman, 21.3), 3-124 (Mominul, 29.6), 4-146 (Mushfiqur, 33.4), 5-194 (Shakib, 51.4), 6-205 (Litton, 54.4), 7-222 (Miraz, 57.5), 8-222 (Najmul, 58.6), 9-228 (Taskin, 59.5).

**INDIA BOWLING**
Bumrah 10-2-24-1, Siraj 10-5-32-0, Akash 6-0-20-0, Ashwin 21-0-88-6, Jadeja 15.1-2-58-3.
**PoM:** Ashwin.
*India won by 280 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.*
**Second Test:**
Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, Kanpur.

## Every time you walk out to the park, it is a swansong: Ashwin

**S. Dipak Ragav**
CHENNAI

At 38, R. Ashwin is probably in the final phase of his career.

And with India set to host only four Tests next year (two each against South Africa and West Indies), it remains to be seen whether Chennai will get another Test soon if the usual rotation policy for venues applies.

In case Ashwin doesn't get to add to his tally of five Tests here, the wily off-spinner can peacefully ride into the sunset knowing he scored a century, took a six-wicket haul and was the Player-of-the-Match in his final outing at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

When asked if the game against Bangladesh that ended on Sunday could be his last one in his home town, Ashwin pondered and then explained how hard it is to predict the next Test match or the series.

At the same time, he also seemed at peace if it turned out to be his final bow at Chepauk.

"Yeah, quite a good question. I don't know. What is swansong? Every time you walk out to the park, it is a swansong. You are talking about a Test match. Maybe or maybe not. Who knows," remarked Ashwin, who clinched his 10th Player-of-the-Match award.

> When you look so far ahead, it can be quite deflating. You have to stack it up. There are good breaks between games. More than skill, I think it is about physically being able to go through the season

**Big thing**

"Every day, every Test match I play is a big thing. Not only for me, for cricketers to go through a Test match or a series is a grind. You never know what is next regarding Tests. Because you put in that effort and must be lucky enough to get those performances, work hard, and manage your ups and downs simultaneously."

"These are all huge challenges for any Test cricketer. So, I haven't thought so far ahead, but if that was my swansong (in Chennai), what a swansong," he added.

In what has already been an eventful year in terms of records, Ashwin went past Courtney Walsh's tally of 519 scalps and is now eighth on the all-time list with 522 wickets. On how he keeps reinventing himself, Ashwin conceded it was getting challenging.

**Hard work**

"It's not the same as when you are 25, 30 or even 35. 38 is different to 35.

"Every bit of work that you put in, you have to put it doubly hard to earn the right to be there. There are challenges for me to go through.

"Usually, it takes a little bit longer. I just wanted to enjoy my game and be the best that I can be. I am not ambitious and want to play as long as I can," Ashwin elaborated.

The Tamil Nadu player also said he did not want to think too far into the future, ahead of a long season with nine more Tests scheduled.

"When you look so far ahead, it can be quite deflating. You have to stack it up. There are good breaks between games. More than skill, I think it is about physically being able to go through the season, which is of utmost importance to me right now," said Ashwin.

## Stones salvages a draw for Man City

EURO LEAGUES

**Agence France-Presse**
MANCHESTER

John Stones' 98th-minute equaliser salvaged a 2-2 draw for Manchester City against 10-man Arsenal in a bad-tempered clash between the two favourites for the Premier League title on Sunday.

Arsenal played the entire second half a man down after Leandro Trossard was sent off but were seconds away from inflicting City's first home defeat since November 2022.

A draw is enough for City to retake top spot, two points clear of Arsenal in fourth.

**The results: Premier League:** Brighton 2 (Hinshelwood 42, Welbeck 45) drew with Nottingham Forest 2 (Wood 13-pen, Sosa 70); Manchester City 2 (Haaland 9, Stones 90+8) drew with Arsenal 2 (Calafiori 22, Gabriel Magalhaes 45+1).

**Serie A:** Fiorentina 2 (Gudmundsson 49-pen, 90-pen) bt Lazio 1 (Gila Fuentes 41).

**LaLiga:** Getafe 1 (Mayoral 83-pen) drew with Leganes 1 (Saenz 76); Athletic Bilbao 3 (Guruzeta 4, 39, Djalo 80) bt Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 25-pen); Villarreal 1 (Perez 38) lost to Barcelona 5 (Lewandowski 20, 35, Torre 58, Raphinha 74, 83).

**Bundesliga:** Stuttgart 5 (Undav 4, 90, Demirovic 21, Millot 62, Toure 80) bt Borussia Dortmund 1 (Guirassy 75); Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Wirtz 14, Tah 32, Hincapie 48, Boniface 90+3) bt Wolfsburg 3 (Mukiele 5-og, Bornauw 37, Svanberg 45+1).

**On Saturday: LaLiga:** Real Valladolid 0 drew with Real Sociedad 0; Osasuna 2 (Budimir 39-pen, Oroz 60) bt Las Palmas 1 (Moleiro 41); Valencia 2 (Juanpe 56-og, Gomez 58) bt Girona 0; Real Madrid 4 (Carvajal 58, Rodrygo 75, Vinicius 78, Mbappe 90-pen) bt Espanyol 1 (Courtois 54-og).

**Saviour:** The Arsenal defence makes a vain scramble to stop Stones from firing in City's equaliser. REUTERS

## Norris cruises to victory, cuts into Verstappen's lead

SINGAPORE GP

**Associated Press**
SINGAPORE

Lando Norris survived a couple of brushes with barriers as he won the Singapore Grand Prix with ease and cut into Max Verstappen's Formula 1 standings lead Sunday.

Norris started on pole position ahead of Verstappen and steadily built a large lead.

There were two brief moments of jeopardy when the McLaren driver first locked his brakes and touched the barriers, prompting concern he'd damaged the front wing, and later when a rear tire brushed another but Norris seemed largely unaffected as he cruised to the win.

"It was an amazing race. A few too many close calls," Norris said.

Verstappen came in second for Red Bull after a race that was largely uneventful after he held off Lewis Hamilton into the first corner at the start.

Oscar Piastri moved up from fifth on the grid to finish third after passing Mercedes' Hamilton and later George Russell for the final podium place.

**The winnings:** Norris looks lovingly at his trophy after a race in which he survived a couple of brushes with barriers. AFP

Verstappen seemed relaxed on Sunday, holding onto second and minimising the damage to his lead, which was trimmed from 59 to 52 points.

Daniel Ricciardo's place in F1 with Red Bull's second team RB could be under threat. Still, the Australian made a small but potentially vital intervention in the championship fight.

Ricciardo stopped for fresh tires late on and set the fastest lap of the race on his way to finishing 18th. That deprived Norris of the extra point for fastest lap that he seemed set to secure. "Thank you, Daniel," Verstappen said over the radio.

**The results:**
1. Norris (McLaren) 1h:46m:37.418s; 2. Verstappen (Red Bull) +20.945s; 3. Piastri (McLaren) 41.8238; 4. Russell (Mercedes) 61.040; 5. Leclerc (Ferrari) 62.430; 6. Hamilton (Mercedes) 85.248; 7. Sainz (Ferrari) 96.039; +1 lap: 8. Alonso (Aston Martin) 89.541; 9. Hulkenberg (Haas) 92.401; 10. Perez (Red Bull) 93.127; 11. Colapinti (Williams) 93.465; 12. Tsunoda (RB); 13. Ocon (Alpine) 146.907; 14. Stroll (Aston Martin) 148.841; 15. Zhou (Kick F1); 16. Bottas (Kick F1); 17. Gasly (Alpine); 18. Ricciardo (RB); **DNF:** Albon (Williams); Magnussen (Haas).

**Standings:**
**Drivers:** 1. Verstappen 331; 2. Norris 279; 3. Leclerc 245; 4. Piastri 237; 5. Sainz 190.
**Constructors:** 1. McLaren 516; 2. Red Bull 475; 3. Ferrari 441; 4. Mercedes 329; 5 Aston Martin 86.

## INBRIEF

### SL scents victory despite Rachin's rearguard action

Sri Lanka stayed on course for victory against New Zealand in the opening Test in Galle despite Rachin Ravindra's unbeaten 91 on Sunday.

**The scores**: Sri Lanka 305 & 309 vs New Zealand 340 & 207/8 in 68 overs (Rachin batting 91, Williamson 30, Blundell 30, Jayasuriya 3/66, Mendis 3/88).

## ROUND-UP

**Champion:** Karnataka U-14 team that won the sub-junior boys' National football championship tier-1 title.

### It's Maharashtra vs Baroda in final

BENGALURU:
Maharashtra will meet Baroda in the final of the KSCA-Dr. Capt. Thimmappaiah memorial tournament at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, starting Tuesday. In the semifinals, Maharashtra overcame KSCA Secretary's XI and Baroda got past Madhya Pradesh, both by virtue of first-innings lead.

**The scores (semifinals):** Maharashtra CA 421 & 598/7 decl. in 123 overs (Murtaza Trunkwala 114, Siddhesh Veer 146, Arshin Kulkarni 150, Sachin Dhas 51, Nikhil Nail 57) drew with KSCA Secretary's XI 161 & 101/2 in 21 overs (E.J. Jasper 28, Vishal Onat 57 n.o.).

Madhya Pradesh CA 325 & 249/7 decl. in 46 overs (Kanishk Dubey 27, Harpreet Singh 32, Sagar Solanki 28, Shubham Sharma 91 n.o., Aryan Pandey 39, Mahesh Pithiya 4/77) drew with Baroda CA 412 & 129/4 in 43 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 34, Shivalik Sharma 71 n.o., Kumar Kartikeya 3/53).

### Karnataka triumphs

C.H. Sakip scored a hat-trick as Karnataka thrashed Manipur 5-1 to win the sub-junior boys National football tier-1 title at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Sunday.

**The result:** Karnataka 5 (C.H. Sakip 7, 27, 65, Rishaan Chaudhri 44, Arvidrian Samwanki Lato 85) bt Manipur 1 (Muktar 34).

### Titles for Blues HC-B, Team Wildboar, Blues HC-A

Bengaluru Blues HC-B, Team Wildboar and Bengaluru Blues HC-A bagged the three titles at KSHA D.S. Murthy Memorial hockey on Saturday.

**The results (finals): First phase:** Bengaluru Blues HC-B 3 (Arjun 23, Manish 27, Logeshwaran 57) bt Adhiyamaan College of Engg 0. **Second phase:** Team Wildboar 2 (Vishal 45, Nikhil 59) bt Bengaluru Blues HC-A 1 (Govindaraj 58). **Third phase:** Shlok HC 8 bt RWFSA 3 (J.P. Kusha 13, S.P. Deekshith 36, 39).

# Gritty India-A emerges the champion

Sai Sudharsan's battling hundred goes in vain, his dismissal proves costly for India-C as a draw would have seen Ruturaj's side lift the title

DULEEP TROPHY

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**
ANANTAPUR

The signal for the DRS was largely a prayer, at best a hope. There was no stopping the inevitable. Prasidh Krishna had indeed got his man, and India-A the Duleep Trophy.

B. Sai Sudharsan's splendid hundred would have been a match-saving innings on most days. A limping B. Indrajith's brave decision to come out to bat at No. 10 deserved a better result, but India-C had no answer to the fiery spell from Prasidh.

The India seamer - in only his second game after returning from injury - took the last three wickets to power his team to a 132-run victory when it looked India-C could salvage a draw.

That draw would have made India-C the champion. With Sai Sudharsan (111, 206b, 12x4), battling it out against a strong, varied bowling attack on a challenging wicket, it had looked Ruturaj Gaikwad's men would have pulled it off, with just a few overs to bat out.

But Sai Sudharsan, while trying to get a single off the last ball of the over, top-edged to fine-leg, where a running Tanush Kotian held his nerve and the ball.

Out came the injured Indrajith, but he lasted only two balls before falling to a fine diving catch at leg-slip by Tilak Varma.

He then had Anshul Kamboj lbw with a ball that came in sharply and kept low. The umpire's decision was promptly reviewed but that only delayed India-A's celebrations a bit.

Earlier, India-A resumed its second innings at 270 for six, and declared two overs later at 286 for eight.

**Triumphant:** India-A celebrates with the trophy. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Set a target of 350, India-C sprang a surprise by sending in Vyshak Vijaykumar to open alongside Ruturaj. The Karnataka seamer looked comfortable enough in his new role, and raised 36 for the first wicket. But his decision to go for a single where there was none proved costly: substitute fielder Shaik Rasheed hit the stumps directly from mid-on.

Ruturaj (44, 93b, 5x4) was joined by Sai Sudharshan and the duo put on 77 for the second wicket. The captain was caught behind off the impressive seamer Aaqib Khan. Then the spinners Kotian and Shams Mulani took over, before the return of Prasidh.

**The scores:**
**India-A — 1st Innings**: 297.
**India-C — 1st Innings**: 234.
**India-A — 2nd Innings**: Pratham Singh c Ruturaj b Gaurav 11, Mayank Agarwal b Kamboj 34, Tilak Varma c Ruturaj b Kamboj 19, Riyan Parag c Ruturaj b Gaurav 73, Shashwat Rawat b Suthar 53, Kumar Kushagara c Kamboj b Gaurav 42, Shams Mulani c Kamboj b Suthar 8, Tanush Kotian (not out) 26, Avesh Khan c Kishan b Gaurav 0; Extras (b-3, lb-14, w-3): 20; Total (for eight wkts. decl. in 66 overs): 286.

**Fall of wickets**: 1-35, 2-73, 3-94, 4-199, 5-209, 6-234, 7-285, 8-286.

**India-C bowling**: Kamboj 17-3-60-2, Gaurav 15-0-68-4, Vyshak 6-0-36-0, Narang 8-1-30-0, Suthar 20-0-75-2.

**India-C — 2nd Innings**: Ruturaj Gaikwad c Kushagra b Aaqib 44, Vyshak Vijaykumar (run out) sub 17, B. Sai Sudarshan c Kotian b Prasidh 111, Rajat Patidar b Aaqib 7, Ishan Kishan c Kushagra b Kotian 17, Abishek Porel c Mayank b Kotian 0, Pulkit Narang c & b Kotian 6, Manav Sutharr c Mayank b Mulani 7, Anshul Kamboj lbw b Prasidh 0, B. Indrajith c Tilak b Prasidh 0, Gaurav Yadav (not out) 1; Extras (b-3, lb-4) 7; Total (in 81.5 overs): 217.

**Fall of wickets**: 1-36, 2-113, 3-133, 4-174, 5-178, 6-188, 7-212, 8-216, 9-216.

**India-A bowling**: Prasidh 13.5-3-50-3, Avesh 14-2-34-0, Aaqib 14-6-26-2, Mulani 19-6-46-1, Kotian 18-3-47-3, Parag 3-0-7-0.

# Arshdeep and Thakare script India-D's consolation win

**Abhishek Saini**
ANANTAPUR

Arshdeep Singh and Aditya Thakare kept the full spoils as they forced India-B's pursuit of 373 runs into a surrender and secured India-D a consolation win in the third-round Duleep Trophy fixture on Sunday.

Arshdeep (6/40) and Thakare (4/59), on either side of the lunch break, put themselves into 11-over spells, wrapping up India-B for 115 runs inside 23 overs to secure a 257-run victory for their side.

Abhimanyu Easwaran and N. Jagadeesan struck off 30 runs in the opening three overs. The innings, however, spiralled towards mayhem in the space of 19 deliveries. At 39 for four Suryakumar Yadav relied upon the double-edged sword of relentless attack. An early reprieve at covers off Thakare did not stop him from picking the bowler over the long on fence.

**The scores**:
**India-D – 1st innings**: 349.
**India-B – 1st innings**: 282.
**India-D – 2nd innings:** Devdutt Padikkal c Jagadeesan b Saini 3, K.S. Bharat b Mukesh 2, Ricky Bhui (not out) 119, Nishant Sindhu c & b Saini 5, Shreyas Iyer c Avasthi b Mukesh 50, Sanju Samson c Prabhudessai b Mukesh 45, Akash Sengupta lbw b Saini 29, Saurabh Kumar c Avasthi b Mukesh 8, Arshdeep Singh c Jagadeesan b Avasthi 13, Aditya Thakare b Washington 9, Saransh Jain (absent hurt); Extras (b-13, lb-6, w-3): 22; Total (in 58.3 overs): 305.
**Fall of wickets:** 1-9, 2-13, 3-18, 4-93, 5-161, 6-245, 7-262, 8-291, 9-305.
**India-B bowling**: Mukesh 17-0-98-4, Saini 16-3-58-3, Avasthi 11-2-59-1, Nitish 3-0-19-0, Chahar 5-0-27-0, Musheer 3-0-18-0, Washington 3.3-0-7-1.
**India-B – 2nd innings**: Abhimanyu Easwaran c Sengupta b Arshdeep 19, N. Jagadeesan lbw b Thakare 5, Suyash Prabhudessai c Shreyas b Arshdeep 2, Musheer Khan b Thakare 0, Suryakumar Yadav c Bharat b Arshdeep 16, Nitish Kumar Reddy (not out) 40, Washington Sundar b Thakare 5, Rahul Chahar c Samson b Thakare 6, Mohit Avasthi c Samson b Arshdeep 0, Navdeep Saini b Arshdeep 0, Mukesh Kumar b Arshdeep 0; Extras (b-12, lb-6, w-4): 22; Total (in 22.2 overs): 115.
**Fall of wickets:** 1-31, 2-34, 3-35, 4-39, 5-74, 6-79, 7-94, 8-99, 9-107.
**India-D bowling:** Arshdeep 11.2-3-40-6, Thakare 11-1-59-4.

# Odisha impresses with victory over NCOE

HOCKEY

**Sports Bureau**
CHENNAI

Odisha, undoubtedly, has been the pick of the lot in the 95th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament here.

Against a tough opponent like National Centre of Excellence (NCOE, Bhopal), Odisha's forwards struck when it mattered to script a 3-2 victory in a Pool-B contest on Sunday.

In another Pool-B tie, IOC was ruthless in a 7-0 thrashing of Central Secretariat.

**The results: Pool A:** BPCL 1 (Vishwas Girish 8) drew with Indian Army 1 (Deepal Kumar 8).

**Opening the floodgates:** Gujinder, centre, scored the opening goal as IOC thrashed Central Secretariat. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

**Pool B:** Odisha 3 (Satish Kangadi 27, Sudeep Minz 55, Prasad Kujjur 58) bt NCOE (Bhopal) 2 (B. Sathish 21, Md. Faraz 32); IOC 7 (Gujinder Singh 3, Sumit Kumar 13, Talwinder Singh 21 & 46, Md. Zaid Khan 36, 41, Aarman Qureshi 49) bt Central Secretariat 0.

LIVE TELECAST

**Sri Lanka vs New Zealand:** 1st Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.
**ISL:** Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
**Serie A:** gxr.world, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
**LaLiga:** gxr.world, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

# Uchchaihshravas primed to complete hat-trick

HYDERABAD: The three-year-old colt Uchchaihshravas, who has won two races in his last two starts, may score a hat-trick in the K. Srinivas Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Monday's (Sept. 23) races.

**1 LADY IN LACE PLATE** (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45, 1.55 p.m.: 1. Fortunatus (5) Kuldeep Jr. 61, 2. Silver Lining (6) Shivansh 58.5, 3. Star Medal (1) R.S. Jodha 58, 4. Ambitious Star (7) Md. Ekram 57.5, 5. Assured Success (8) Ajay K 56.5, 6. Federer (4) P. Ajeeth K 55, 7. Star Cruise (3) Surya Prakash 50.5 and 8. Taaliyah (2) Abhay Singh 50.
**1. FORTUNATUS, 2. SILVER LINING, 3. FEDERER**

**2 NALGONDA PLATE** (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.30: 1. Bellingham (8) Akshay K 56, 2. Blazing Saddle (3) P. Sai K 56, 3. Furious Strides (5) Surya Prakash 56, 4. Rolls Royce (2) R.S. Jodha 56, 5. Secret Option (6) Shivansh 56, 6. Varaneek Gold (1) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 7. Dream To Fly (7) Md. Ismail 54.5 and 8. Newfound Glory (4) Santosh Raj 54.5.
**1. BELLINGHAM, 2. NEWFOUND GLORY, 3. ROLLS ROYCE**

**3 TAJ MAHAL PLATE** (1,100m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.05: 1. Sangreal (7) P. Sai K 60, 2. Divine Connection (3) R.S. Jodha 59, 3. Shadow Fax (2) Kuldeep Sr. 59, 4. Happy Soul (1) Surya Prakash 58, 5. Santa Barbara (4) Md. Ekram 57, 6. Calista Girl (5) Gaurav 56, 7. Bold Beauty (8) Santosh Raj 54.5 and 8. Red Snaper (6) P. Ajeeth K 54.5.
**1. SANTA BARBARA, 2. DIVINE CONNECTION, 3. SHADOW FAX**

**4 MAJOR GENERAL NAWAB KHUSRU JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II)** (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.40: 1. Hoping Star (3) Mohit Singh 61, 2. Splendour On Grass (8) Santosh Raj 60, 3. Mirzeta (4) M. Mark 59, 4. Fatuma (9) Surya Prakash 58, 5. Ariette (2) Akshay K 57, 6. Challenger (5) Md. Ekram 56, 7. Golden Inzio (6) Ajay K 55.5, 8. Lights On (1) R.S. Jodha 52 and 9. Vital Sign (7) Abhay Singh 51.5.
**1. ARIETTE, 2. CHALLENGER, 3. GOLDEN INZIO**

**5 K. SRINIVAS REDDY MEMORIAL CUP** (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.15: 1. Encore (4) Md. Ekram 60, 2. Decoy (6) B.R. Kumar 58.5, 3. Sun Dancer (7) Likith Appu 57.5, 4. Imperia (1) P. Ajeeth K 57, 5. Rival (2) Ajay K 56.5, 6. Briar Ridge (5) Surya Prakash 55.5, 7. Oliver's Mount (8) Akshay K 55 and 8. Uchchaihshravas (3) Suraj Narredu 54.5.
**1. UCHCHAIHSHRAVAS, 2. ENCORE, 3. DECOY**

**6 GIMCRACK PLATE** (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 4.50: 1. Anemoi (10) Akshay K 60, 2. London Bell (9) Md. Ekram 60, 3. Master Touch (5) Mukesh 60, 4. Definite (4) P. Ajeeth K 59.5, 5. Shubhrak (2) Deepak Singh 59.5, 6. Magical Power (3) Kuldeep Jr. 57, 7. Battle On (6) Santosh Raj 56, 8. Fortune Art (8) G. Naresh 54.5, 9. Pair Of Wings (1) Mohit Singh 52.5 and 10. Politics (7) Arjun 50.
**1. ANEMOI, 2. LONDON BELL, 3. MASTER TOUCH**
Day's Best: **BELLINGHAM**
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6.
Tanala: All races.

# Super-sub Peprah lights up Kochi

ISL

**Stan Rayan**
KOCHI

Kwame Peprah had been injured for a good part of last season and even during his stay on the field he had been living in Dimitrios Diamantakos' shadow. On Sunday, the young Ghanaian stole the thunder from Diamantakos, the ISL top scorer last year, as he scored a late match-winner that gave Kerala Blasters a 2-1 victory over East Bengal FC here.

K.P. Rahul sent a cross from the left and Anwar Ali appeared ready to kick away the danger but Mohammed Aimen stole it with a smart slide and sent it to Peprah who fired it home with a left-footer.

P.V. Vishnu had given EBFC the lead in the 59th minute and Noah Sadaoui had netted Blasters' equaliser in the 63rd.

Diamantakos looked dangerous as he ran into the box and foxed goalkeeper Sachin Suresh with a smart cross to his right which Vishnu tapped in neatly. But Sadaoui was quick to level the scores, racing in from the left, dodging a defender and finding the net with a nice shot to the far corner.

**The result:** KBFC 2 (Sadaoui 63, Peprah 88) bt EBFC 1 (Vishnu 59).

# Ashoka does the 'trick by obliging in Governor's Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer Donald Netto's Ashoka, ridden by Akshay Kumar, completed his hat-trick by winning the Governor's Cup, the feature event of Sunday's (Sept. 22) races. The winner is owned by M/s. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni, Rama Seshu Eyunni, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary.

**1. P.V.G. RAJU MEMORIAL CUP: MAIGIRA** (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Desert Hero (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Gloria (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Freedom Touch (Hindu Singh) 4. 4-1/4, 2 and 2-3/4. 1m, 42.08s. ₹34 (w), 10, 14 and 13 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 49, SHW: 23 and 32, FP: 113, Q: 50, Tanala: 122. Favourite: Gloria. Owners: Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy, Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy & Ms. Anosha Meyers rep. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd., & Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

**2. MAJOR GENERAL NAWAB KHUSRU JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I): DARLING'S BOY** (Shivansh) 1, Mr. Perfect (G. Naresh) 2, Jet Falcon (B. Nikhil) 3 and Anahita (Ajay K) 4. 3, 7-1/4 and 2. 1m, 13.98s. ₹26 (w), 10, 11 and 16 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 44, SHW: 16 and 15, FP: 71, Q: 31, Tanala: 105. Favourite: Mr. Perfect. Owners: Mr. S. Daljeet Singh, Mr. Mohammed Rasheed Ali Khan & Mr. Aziz Ahmed Khan. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.

**3. S.N. REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: MAGNUM** (Akshay Kumar) 1, N R I Superpower (Abhay Singh) 2, Divine Destiny (Surya Prakash) 3 and Kancha (Mukesh) 4. 5-1/4, 2 and 2-1/2. 2m, 7.90s. ₹18 (w), 10, 17 and 31 (p). SHP: 82, THP: 63, SHW: 12 and 30, FP: 131, Q: 63, Tanala: 742. Favourite: Magnum. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

**4. RAJA SAHEB OF CHALLAPALLI MEMORIAL CUP: CROWN WITNESS** (Ajay Kumar) 1, Toffee (Md. Ekram) 2, Brooklyn Beauty (Hindu Singh) 3 and Noble Heart (Likith Appu) 4. Not run: Burgundy Black. 7-1/2, Nose and 1. 1m, 40.90s. ₹33 (w), 10, 11 and 10 (p). SHP: 50, THP: 34, SHW: 26 and 23, FP: 305, Q: 173, Tanala: 1,314. Favourite: Sacred Bond. Owners: Mr. Teja Gollapudi & Mr. S. Prasad Raju. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

**5. JATPROLE CUP: MIDSUMMER STAR** (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Amyra (Md. Ekram) 2, Mark My Day (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Nucleus (Mohit) 4. 3-1/4, Nose and 1. 1m, 13.38s. ₹41 (w), 14, 23 and 20 (p). SHP: 60, THP: 160, SHW: 23 and 15, FP: 523, Q: 433, Tanala: 4,994. Favourite: Classical Music. Owners: Jatin L. Trivedi & Mr. Nitin H. Jain rep. J.N. Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

**6. GOVERNOR'S CUP: ASHOKA** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Akido (R.S. Jodha) 2, Malaala (Ajay K) 3 and Baisa (Arjun) 4. 2-3/4, 3/4 and 5. 1m, 12.97s. ₹12 (w), 10, 37 and 12 (p). SHP: 100, THP: 39, SHW: 11 and 23, FP: 201, Q: 192, Tanala: 787. Favourite: Ashoka. Owners: M/s. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni, Rama Seshu Eyunni, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Trainer: D. Netto.

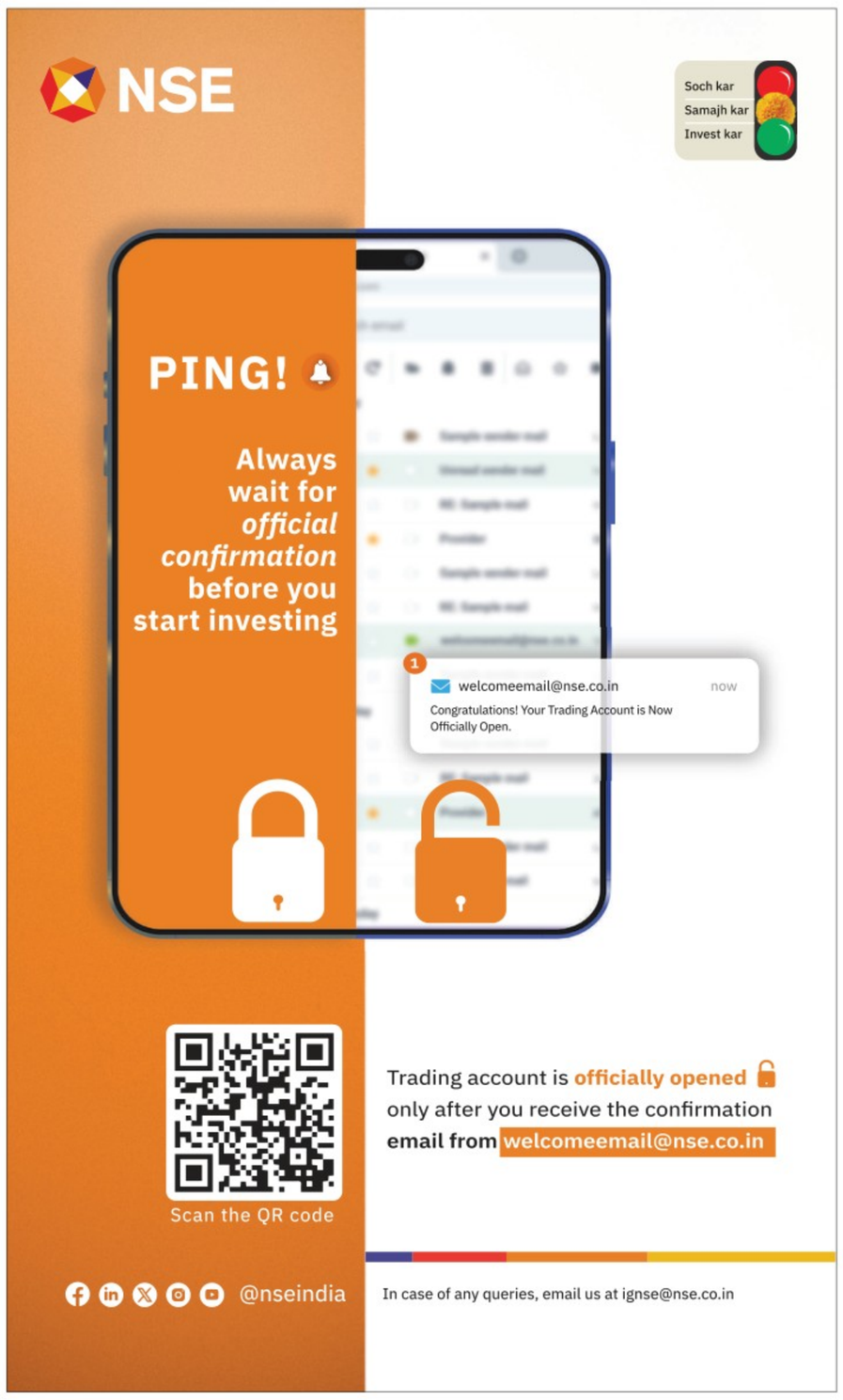
**7. NAWAB SULTAN ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP: MASTER TOUCH** (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Soorya Vahan (Md. Ismail) 2, Stoli (Md. Ekram) 3 and Char Ek Char (Shivansh) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 30.91s. ₹46 (w), 10, 11 and 56 (p). SHP: 40, THP: 59, SHW: 30 and 34, FP: 343, Q: 128, Tanala: 1,911. Favourite: Char Ek Char. Owners: Mr. A.K. Jaiswal & Mr. Mirza Ayub Baig. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan. Jackpot: 70%: ₹3,930 (57 tkts.) & 30%: 265 (361 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i) 1,308 (29 tkts.), (ii) 2,826 (13 tkts.). Treble: (i) 349 (66 tkts.), (ii) 395 (78 tkts).

# Maia beats Kasatkina in Korea Open title clash

**Agence France-Presse**
SEOUL

Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia won the fourth title of her career with a furious fightback to down Russian top seed Daria Kasatkina 1-6, 6-4, 6-1 in Sunday's Korea Open tennis final.

It is the world No. 17's first title since June 2022.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